

Professor released after five years despite Israeli air attack on Hezbollah medical base

American hostage freed in Lebanon

By ALI JAEBER IN BEIRUT AND OUR FOREIGN STAFF

THE American hostage Jesse Turner was freed last night after nearly five years of captivity in Beirut. His release came after Israel freed 15 Arabs yesterday morning as part of the global exchange being negotiated by the United Nations.

Mr Turner was handed to Syrian security forces and driven to Damascus, where he was met by American diplomats, following the traditional procedure established for hostage releases.

Mr Turner, 44, was one of two Americans kidnapped by the Shia group Islamic Jihad for the Liberation of Palestine in January, 1987. The group, which on Friday offered to allow him to spend an hour with his wife, announced on Sunday that either he or Alana Steen would be freed within 24 hours, after talks with the UN special envoy, Giandomenico Picco.

The release of the computer science professor went ahead as scheduled in spite of Israeli air strikes a village in south Lebanon yesterday that were

denounced by another kidnap group as obstructing the drive for a comprehensive hostage swap. No one was hurt in the raid on Jibchit, home of Sheikh Abdel-Karim Obeid, the most prominent of the three hundred or so Arabs being held by Israel. But Islamic Jihad, which holds Terry Waite and the Americans Terry Anderson and Tom Sutherland, issued a statement denouncing "these tyrannical Zionist practices". It called on the UN secretary-general, Javier Pérez de Cuellar, to intervene to stop what it described as an Israeli siege of villages in south Lebanon.

Israeli aircraft had flattened a Hezbollah medical base near Jibchit in revenge for the deaths of three Israeli soldiers in a bombing in south Lebanon on Sunday. Islamic Jihad described the strike as a savage attack on innocents and unarmed civilians.

The Israeli deputy foreign minister, Benjamin Netanyahu, insisted, however, that the attack and counter-attack in southern Lebanon had nothing to do with the hostage negotiations and pointed to Israel's release yesterday of 15 Arabs, 14 from Kham prison in south Lebanon and one from inside Israel itself. Their release was the result of Israel receiving proof that the missing serviceman Yossi Fink was dead.

Israel had demanded information on seven servicemen, of whom only one is thought to be alive, before freeing batches of Lebanese detainees at Kham. The Lebanese kidnappers have, in turn, linked the release of the Western hostages to the repatriation of the Israeli-held Arabs.

Yesterday, five of the freed Arabs were taken to Beirut, where they were met by a 300-strong demonstration organised by Hezbollah. One Hezbollah leader, Sheikh Naim Kassem, told the freed



Steps to freedom: a Lebanese woman watched by a militiaman as she steps down from a bus in Marjayoun after being released from Kham prison

prisoners: "You were the ones who kept Israel in prison, not vice versa." He vowed to continue the armed struggle against Israel until it withdraws its army from the security zone in southern Lebanon.

The other ten Arabs, including two women, freed from Kham went to their homes in the security zone. The 15th freed detainee, Ali Fawaz, was driven from Israel to Lebanon in a Red Cross car. He had been detained for participating in an attack on Israel's surrogate militia, the Southern Lebanese Army, and last night he claimed that he had been subjected to torture by electric shock and had been beaten.

The release of the Arabs paved the way for Mr Turner's freedom last night. He had been held captive for 1,731 days since being seized by gunmen disguised as policemen. Early yesterday, his kidnappers issued a photograph of him and announced that it would free him "in compliance with the pledge and as an expression of readiness to continue the comprehensive agreement which is in process to release all the detainees and hostages".

The Syrian foreign minister, Farouq al-Shara, later confirmed: "We expect an American hostage, Jesse Turner, to be freed this evening."

For three years before he was captured with three other academics on January 24, 1987, Mr Turner taught mathematics and computer science at Beirut University College. He had earned a

bachelor's degree in psychology from Boise State University in 1970 and graduate degrees in philosophy and mathematics at the University of Idaho.

He was a professor at the University of Hawaii in 1981 and at the University of California the following year. He moved to Beirut in 1984 and converted to Islam in 1985.

Mr Turner, of Boise, Idaho, married a Lebanese secretary, Badr, in 1986 and their daughter was born five months after he was kidnapped. Since then, his wife and daughter, Joanne, have moved to live in the United Arab Emirates.

Even though he had not lived in America for years, Mr Turner was remembered with other hostages in his home state and yellow ribbons were tied round trees on each anniversary of his disappearance. Schoolchildren marked his 1,000th day of captivity in 1990 by folding 1,000 white paper cranes as a symbol of good luck.

Photograph, page 11
Hatred in common, page 14



Jesse Turner: set free in Lebanon last night

TODAY IN THE TIMES

LACY LOOK



Valentine's models were showing the lacy new lingerie look in Paris this season. Liz Smith reports on the long and the short of the designers' collections

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BB'S BACK



"To be black and a blues musician, that's like being black twice." BB King, veteran of the one-night show, is on the road again

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BOHEMIAN BLUES



Dr Johnson was never knowingly tired of London, but Janet Daley regrets the passing of the bohemian life that once she led, and blames it on urban policies and rip-off merchants

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Pensions to rise by 4.1%

By RICHARD FORD
POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

AN EXTRA £240 million package for old and frail pensioners was announced yesterday by the government as part of a £3 billion uprating of social security benefits.

From April, pensions and child benefit will rise by 4.1 per cent, increasing the basic retirement pension for a single person by £2.15 a week and by £3.45 for a couple. Child benefit for the eldest child will increase by 40p to £9.65 a week and for other children by 30p to £7.80p.

Disabled pensioners and the over-80s will benefit most. The additional funds make an overall increase of £5.10p a week for a single person and £7.70p a week for a couple. Old people living in private residential care are to receive an additional £15 a week.

Full details, page 4
Leading article, page 15

French farmers rampage

From PHILIP JACOBSON IN PARIS AND TOM WALKER IN LUXEMBOURG

FRENCH farmers manned pre-dawn roadblocks to halt foreign lorries in Brittany, yesterday, and seized imported British lamb and German meat in Toulouse, in a new wave of protests.

Cargoes of imported meat and butter were unloaded from two British lorries and three others, carrying imported produce between Nantes and Rennes, and then set on fire. In the southwestern city of Toulouse, protesting farmers snatched crates of meat to hand out free to shoppers in the city centre.

In Montauban, in the same region, dozens of angry farmers gathered outside the police station demanding the release of seven trade union leaders detained after violent protests last Friday in which Jean-Michel Baylet, the tourism minister, had been pelted with fruit and vegetables.

French farmers are worried that European Community food mountains and competition from Eastern Europe are cutting prices and destroying their livelihood. Edith

Cresson, the French prime minister, has warned her ministers not to travel in the French countryside without permission from local authorities.

Angered by falling prices, French farmers have attacked administrative and tax offices, and government officials are now considered fair game in a battle to preserve the rural way of life. The latest attacks on vehicles took place as EC farm ministers gathered in Luxembourg, where John Gummer, the agriculture minister, denounced the "mob tactics" of the French farmers.

Although he told his EC colleagues that he welcomed the French government's apparent new support for EC farm reform, he said it should restore order in the countryside at once. "I am insisting that the EC cannot work if there is no common standard of law and order," he said.

Mr Gummer vowed that the lawlessness of the farmers in Britain would not budge Britain from backing a protectionist reform of the common agricultural policy. "I don't think it is acceptable that we should be blackmailed, by mob rule, into taking different views," he said.

In the meantime, Louis Mermaz, the French agriculture minister, has pledged

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Talks collapsing, page 10

capture the popular vote by saying they are against the amalgamation. Even Marcus Humphrey, for the Conservatives, has gone against the government line by supporting the Gordons' case for survival as a separate regiment.

Last night Douglas Robson, secretary of Save the Gordon Highlanders, said: "We must fight against what we consider is a most irresponsible decision," but he said they would not be fighting against the other parties but to change the government's budget to change the government's main campaign issue.

A volunteer has offered to stand, although the name will not be released until shortly before nominations close on Friday. Mr Robson said that over

the past six weeks 240,000 people of all political parties had signed a petition calling for the government to change its mind.

While the Tories, Labour, Liberal Democrats and the Scottish National Party back the campaign to varying degrees, the appearance of a Save the Gordons candidate could split the vote in what is widely expected to be a close finish. Nicol Stephen, the Liberal Democrat, is being tipped cautiously as the favourite in the 1987 general election he came within 2,063 votes of the late Alick Buchanan-Smith, who held the seat for the Conservatives until he died on August 29.

Mr Humphrey, a Deeside land-

owner who yesterday announced he had become a grandfather for the first time, appears to have adopted Mr Buchanan-Smith's reputation as an old-style, consensus Tory. A party spokesman said last night that he was the only candidate who stood a chance of persuading the government to think again. The campaigners, he said, knew the Tories were the only party who stood for strong defence.

Their fight is with the opposition parties who are all pledged to drastically reduce defence expenditure. What the campaigners should be asking is how the Liberal Democrat candidate squares his party's policy with his pledge to keep the Gordon Highlanders," he said.

Poland toasts ale and hearty party

Voters are imbibing the heady green politics brewed by the Beer Lovers. Roger Boyes reports from Warsaw

After Poland's parliamentary elections on Sunday, the balance of power may well lie in the unsteady hands of the Beer Lovers' party, a maverick group that has just overtaken the former communists in the opinion polls.

The subtle political credo of the Beer Lovers is best expressed by their campaign anthem: "Drink one, two, three beers and you walk a little queer. But after vodka you don't walk at all, so pour some beer, so pour!" The party's president is Janusz Rewinski, a rotund, bearded comedian who is as surprised as anyone by the present turn of events.

In a country where the economics ministry estimates that a million people are drunk every day, he argues that it is senseless to prohibit alcohol. Instead Poles should be persuaded to drink beer and abandon vodka.

The party programme arises from the assumption that good beer is good for Poland and can only be brewed from pure water and organically grown grain. The party is lobbying for an environmental clean-up, with tax incentives for non-polluting companies and tax penalties on, for example, owners of "dirty" Trabant cars.

Minister warns trust hospitals against charging

By PHILIP WEBSTER, CHIEF POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

WILLIAM Waldegrave yesterday gave a warning to health trusts that they must not charge health service patients, as he mounted a spirited defence of the government's health reforms.

The day after he disclosed that tax concessions for private health insurance for the elderly might be ended, it emerged that the health secretary has instructed officials to investigate any allegations of charging, particularly by trust hospitals or those who have applied for trust status.

He has written to St Bartholomew's, the London teaching hospital, after allegations that it has requested money for providing infertility treatment to health service patients. Other cases are being looked at.

Mr Waldegrave, opening an ill-tempered Commons debate on the health service yesterday, underlined several times that it was illegal to charge health service patients. Challenged by a Labour MP, he said: "I do not need to consult about the law of the land. NHS patients cannot be charged and that is the end of that."

After Mr Waldegrave's statement about charging, Robin Cook, the shadow health secretary, told him: "We will not let you come back to this House, after what you have said about these charges being illegal, without hearing whether after this debate you left this chamber and stopped those charges."

Labour MPs had tabled a Commons motion yesterday noting that five London doctors had condemned St Bartholomew's for privatising infertility treatment and "questioned both the morality and legality of requesting money for the treatment of NHS patients."

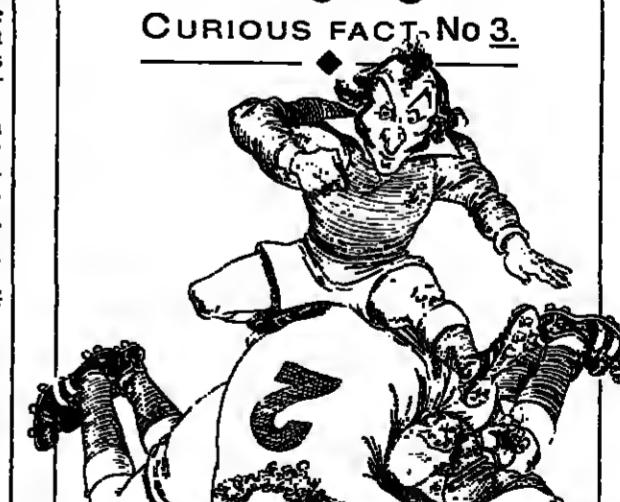
Mr Waldegrave's condemnation of charging was seen by MPs last night as another sign of the health secretary's determination to prevent any practices in the health service that would lend credence to

THE FAMOUS GROUSE FINEST SCOTCH WHISKY

PRESENTS

Rugby

CURIOS FACT. No. 3.



In the 1965 All England Schools 200 yards low hurdles, a certain A. Pascoe came a breathless second to a fresh-faced, record-breaking Welsh lad, Alan, who went on to gold success in European and Commonwealth competitions must be eternally grateful that the winner, one Gareth Edwards, decided to take his silver-heels into the world of rugby instead.

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bad debt

Surgery patients 'heard doctor being accused of brushing up against clinic staff'

Woman GP tried to ruin partner with sex slur, jury told

By ROBIN YOUNG

A DOCTOR being sued for slander in the High Court for alleging that her former partner had sexually harassed her had advertised in the *British Medical Journal*: "Princess GP seeks frog to kiss into replacement partner", a jury was told yesterday.

Dr Malcolm Smith, who has brought the action against Dr Alanah Houston, said that she had tried to destroy his career by labelling him a groper.

Dr Smith, aged 35, is claiming damages over Dr Houston's accusations that he harassed her and members of staff by feeling their breasts, pinching their bottoms and brushing up against them.

Dr Smith said that he had apologised to patients at his surgery after a scene in which, he claimed, Dr Houston had said in front of them: "We have all had enough of you feeling our breasts, pinching

seven women and five men that the doctors had been partners but, at the time of the alleged slander, were sharing the surgery and running separate practices. Dr Houston had been trying to have Dr Smith removed from the premises and had made complaints about him to the local family practitioner committee.

Dr Houston had said in one letter that Dr Smith's attitudes and attack on her staff had made the atmosphere at the surgery "explosive".

Mr Crystal said that the jury might think that Dr Houston had tried to exploit her femininity in the advertisement. He said: "Here we have a woman, fixated in some way, who is not only prepared to regard herself as volatile and abrasive but prepared to resort to that sort of imaginative advert to further her own ends."

If Dr Smith had been guilty of the conduct alleged, it would have had "untold and far-reaching" consequences, Mr Crystal said.

"If he were someone who harassed people, groped women, kept on brushing up against people for thrill or enjoyment, he is hardly suitable to be a GP, he is not somebody the General Medical Council would regard as a fit and proper person."

Dr Smith had brought the case to vindicate his name and to seek compensation for the distress he had been caused. The case continues today.

herself "abrasive" and said that she required "a noo up-tight partner with the capacity for self-mockery" to bring new skills to her practice.

In November 1988 she had placed an advertisement describing herself as a "Princess GP seeking frog to kiss into replacement partner". She also referred to her "hypomimic staff".

Mr Crystal said that the jury might think that Dr Houston had tried to exploit her femininity in the advertisement. He said: "Here we have a woman, fixated in some way, who is not only prepared to regard herself as volatile and abrasive but prepared to resort to that sort of imaginative advert to further her own ends."

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Houston: accused by her former partner at her surgery of a sex slander against him

Smith patients heard accusation of groping

our bums and brushing up against us. Just because you are a single man, you think you can practise on us."

Dr Smith said that if the allegations had been true, he would have been struck off and his medical practice destroyed. He denied that he had ever brushed against Dr Houston's bottom or breasts.

Jonathan Crystal, counsel for Dr Smith, had earlier told the jury that Dr Houston, aged 47, had never apologised for her remarks, which had upset Dr Smith very much. Mr Crystal told a jury of

the key to Dr Houston's character lay in three advertisements she had placed in the *British Medical Journal* when seeking a partner for her practice. In one, in 1984, she had described herself as "volatile". Four years later she had called

BR sweeps aside leaf problem

By MICHAEL DYNES

TRANSPORT CORRESPONDENT
BRITISH Rail engineers are anxiously awaiting the arrival of autumn's falling leaves so that they can begin trials of their latest acquisition, a £260,000 experimental track-scrubbing train.

The train, equipped with 16 rotating brushes at track level, is designed to remove rotting leaves that damage rolling stock and seriously disrupt rail services. It will go into service at the end of this month between Basingstoke and Salisbury.

Network SouthEast is confident that the track scrubber, developed from a Swedish prototype, will prove successful and that more track scrubbing trains will be introduced next year.

Fallen leaves crushed by trains form a thick mush that reduces grip on the tracks. Wheels spin and the train is unable to accelerate, causing expensive damage.

In the Seveotes, BR introduced a fleet of trains that deposit sand-impregnated paste. Used on more than 500 miles of track, the trains reduced annual wheel-set repairs from 3,200 to 1,400. The scrubbing trains are expected to further reduce costs and delays.

Environmentally acceptable weed killers are to be used to control roadside vegetation, Sir Bob Reid, the BR chairman, said yesterday.

Letters, page 15

Suspect evidence three are cleared

By CRAIG SETON

THREE men who were convicted and imprisoned on suspect evidence given by a "supergrill" to the former West Midlands serious crime squad were cleared by the Court of Appeal yesterday.

Lord Lane, the Lord Chief Justice, said there was "reassured unease" over the safety of the convictions of the three because of suspicions that were ripe at the time about the activities of the squad.

The disappearance and later re-appearance of files and exhibits relating to two separate trials involving the Birmingham men had raised grave doubts about the bona fides of the squad, the court was told.

The court quashed as unsafe and unsatisfactory the conviction of Daniel Lynch, aged 36, who was serving a ten-year sentence for robbery, firearms possession and burglary.

An estimated 15 more appeals are pending. The squad was disbanded in 1989. Its affairs are still under investigation by a team from West Yorkshire police.

Lord Lane, sitting with Mr Justice Rock and Mr Justice Auld, said the arrests of the three came after confessions to the squad by Paul Jarvis to more than 1,000 offences. Jarvis had claimed he had been co-opted by the Gall brothers for the shooting of John Griffin, a nightclub doorman, and had also implicated one of the brothers in a burglary. Lord Lane said Jarvis could not have committed the burglary because he was in custody at the time.

Andrew Nuttall, defending, said the husband had done everything he could to try to save his marriage. "He thought if there could be a moment of intimacy there might be a chance to talk it over and he did not really realize that what he was doing was wrong."

Nazi yacht founders in economic straits

By JOHN SHAW

A YACHT commissioned by Hitler as a once-prideful symbol of the Third Reich is now down-at-heels and goes on sale this week for £5,000.

More than 50 years after she was built, the yacht has become a victim of a depression in the expensive restoration market for classic boats.

Merlin, originally named Wal, has handsome lines and was one of six 55ft yachts built on Hitler's orders in 1939 with the aim of winning the prized

Baltic Cup trophy to boost German marine prestige. That ambition took a back seat when Hitler invaded Poland and the yachts were taken over by the German High Commission. Wal found her way into the hands of Hermann Goering, who sailed her off the Dutch coast.

She is known to have been used for "rest and relaxation" by senior Luftwaffe officers, but little else is known of her wartime history.

The vessel was taken to England by the Royal Navy in

Man freed after rape of wife

By RICHARD DUCE

Gerald, aged 29, who were jailed in August 1989 for their alleged role in the contract shooting of a nightclub doorman.

Ronald Gall, who had been sentenced to two years, left prison last year.

His brother, imprisoned for three years, was not freed yesterday because he remained in custody in connection with another alleged offence.

The separate appeals of the three men were heard together by the court because they had been implicated by Paul Jarvis, a police informer, in evidence he gave to the squad.

The quashing of the convictions brings to eight the number of men the Court of Appeal has cleared over allegations that evidence from the squad had been fabricated or was otherwise unreliable.

Peter Cadwallader, for the prosecution, said that on the day of the attack the husband was angry and aggressive because of the sleeping arrangement and raped his wife after dragging her upstairs and threatening to kill her. Both had wept after the attack and she later reported her husband to police.

The judge said the rape was a "misplaced attempt to get her to love you".

Andrew Nuttall, defending, said the husband had done everything he could to try to save his marriage. "He thought if there could be a moment of intimacy there might be a chance to talk it over and he did not really realize that what he was doing was wrong."

Golden Delicious, which can be stored and made available year round and which look and taste the same whenever and wherever you buy them. Come to think of it, they said the same about beer a few years ago.

The campaign for real apples is led by a tiny environmental group, Common Ground, whose members happen to be in Covent Garden.

It is concerned about not only restricted consumer choice but the wholesale destruction of ancient orchards, once among the glories

of the English countryside. Devon alone, according to Sue Clifford, of Common Ground, has lost 90 per cent of its orchards since 1965. Of an astonishing 6,000 recorded varieties in Britain, only nine are now grown commercially, and only 40 per cent of the apples we eat are home-grown.

Common Ground is promoting "community" orchards, and has received some support from farmers, local authorities and wildlife trusts. The group claims to have persuaded Marks & Spencer, Sainsbury's and Safeway to stock a number of unusual varieties on a trial basis. It has also produced a recipe book (*The Apple Source Book*, £5, Shelton Street, London WC1H 9HJ, £4.95).

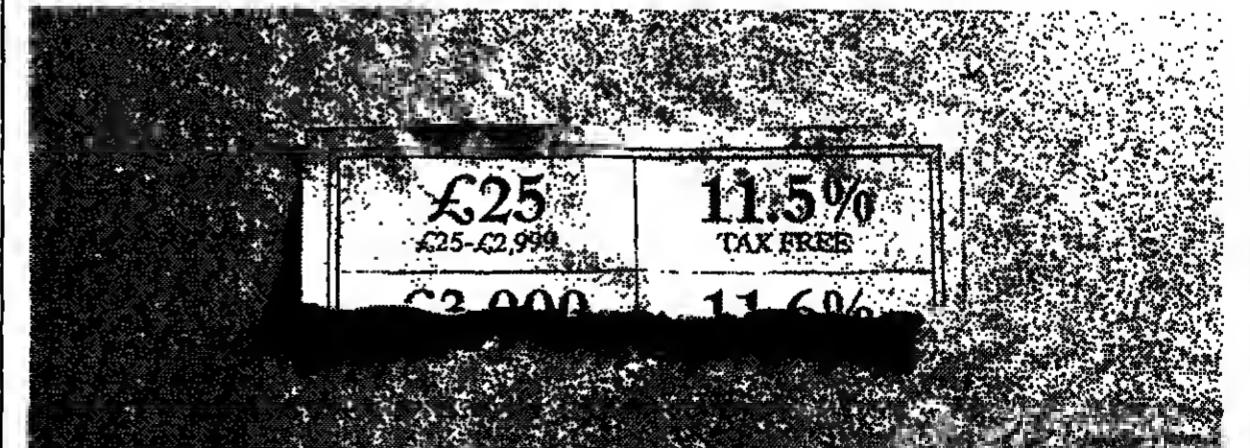
At least our legislators agreed to mark Apple Day by serving Royal Cider in the Commons dining room, and Colin Shepherd, Conservative MP for Hereford and chairman of the catering sub-committee, vowed that Parliament would do its bit to promote the apple.

She said that she still experienced problems cleaning her home, washing and peeling vegetables and carrying shopping.

The case was adjourned until today.

Diary, page 14

Ridiculously high tax-free interest? On ridiculously low sums of money? Don't be ridiculous.



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TS10

Villagers form a 'republic' in gypsy camp protest

RESIDENTS of Cleeve Prior, Hereford and Worcester, will declare their community an independent republic today in a publicity stunt designed to signal their opposition to the growth of gypsy camps close to the boundary of the village.

Villagers intend to erect border posts in the main street and issue passports with visas to visitors, while the community stores will offer "duty-free" goods at 10 per cent off the usual price. Residents are to do medieval costume for a ceremony in which a town crier is to declare Cleeve Prior an independent republic.

The carnival atmosphere that is expected is intended to convey a serious message. Villagers say that over years four gypsy camps have been created without planning permission on private land just outside the village, near Evesham.

Hereford and Worcester county council intends to create another permanent camp for up to 20 travellers' caravans on the site to fulfil its obligations under the Gypsy Caravan Sites Act 1968. The residents of Cleeve Prior, which has a population of 400, say the proposed new development

Residents of Cleeve Prior are staging a mock declaration of independence to convey a serious message. Craig Seton reports

unauthorised sites near by. He added: "We have tried all the legal channels to get the district council to enforce planning regulations and stop these developments, but without success. Now we feel we have to do something else to make our point."

Mr Neale said that children from the gypsy sites attended the local school. He added: "We have started to be integrated with the gypsy families, but there is no way a village of this size can cope with more. We know there is government provision for gypsy camps, but the numbers should be limited." Phil Nutt, who runs a computer business, added: "The whole argument is about numbers. We are not against gypsies and we have worked very hard to make that clear."

Hereford and Worcester county council said last night that it had an obligation under the 1968 act to identify and acquire sites for local authority gypsy camps. It said that once a site had been established, the district authority would be able to prove that provision for gypsies had been made and could take action against unauthorised sites.

Peter Neale, vice-chairman of the group, who runs an electric company, said yesterday said an aerial survey organised by the village had shown more than 30 caravans occupying the

Leading article, page 15



Keep out: Mr Neale and Tony Callaghan placing stocks on the village green

Newton finds £240m extra in benefits for the needy

By RICHARD FORD, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

THE government yesterday announced an increase in payments to the very elderly, disabled and most vulnerable from next April at a cost of £240 million, in addition to the additional funds made available to the normal annual uprating of benefits.

The basic retirement pension will increase by £2.15 a week for a single person and by £3.45 for a couple. Child benefit for the eldest child will increase by 40p to £9.65 a week and the rate for other children by 30p to £7.80.

Tony Newton, the social security secretary, pleased Conservative MPs by providing additional funds for a number of the most needy groups, including pensioners over 80, the disabled and elderly people living in residential care.

He told MPs in the Commons: "We are doing more for those who are older and least well-off, more for families with children and more for disabled people. Those are our priorities and I believe they will be widely endorsed."

The normal annual uprating of benefits will cost more than £3 billion. The mainstream benefits rise next April in line with movements in the retail price index up to September, when inflation measured 4.1 per cent.

Other income related benefits, including income support, housing benefit and community charge benefit, will increase by 7 per cent. Weekly income support for a single person over 25 will increase from £39.65 to £42.45 and for a couple with two children aged 10 and 12 from £104.55 to £111.85.

Mr Newton told MPs that income support premium for

disabled pensioners and those over 80 was to rise by an extra £1 a week for a single pensioner and £1.50 for a couple, at a cost of £60 million. The additional funds make an overall increase of £5.10 a week for a single person and £7.70 a week for a couple.

Mr Newton also gave extra financial assistance to elderly people living in private residential care to help to bridge the gap between the homes' charges and the amount paid by the state. Income support limits for those in the homes is to rise by £15 a week and for the very dependent elderly and mentally handicapped by £20 a week.

Although Mr Newton's help for those in residential care was widely welcomed, a number of Tory MPs demanded an additional premium to help those in homes in southern England, where costs are higher.

Three hundred thousand people are to benefit for the first time by the introduction of two new tiers of the disability living allowance, including 10,000 severely mentally handicapped people with serious behavioural difficulties. The allowance will be £11.55 a week.

Mr Newton also announced that another £1 million would be provided for the hospice movement and an extra £67 million for the social fund.

Tory MPs welcomed the package, but Labour's shadow social security secretary said: "The prime minister is not producing a classless society, but a couldn't-care-less society. This statement today will confirm our status as the poverty capital of Europe."

Leading article, page 15

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A time for silence as Aberfan grieves

By TIM JONES

THE simple service to mark the terrible tragedy of Aberfan was over before the early morning mist cleared from the valley floor.

At precisely 9.15, the time 25 years ago when the huge tip crashed down to kill their children, a small group of villagers gathered at the special place in the cemetery to shed their tears and grieve.

The ranks of arched white Italian marble headstones that commemorate where most of the 116 children who died, the Rev Jules Vaughan, congregational minister of Bethesda chapel, read a passage from Ecclesiastes 2 in *The Good News Bible*. "Everything that happens in this world happens at the time God chooses. He sets the time for birth and the time for death, the time for planting and the time for pulling up, the time for killing and the time for healing, the time for silence and the time for talk."

The villagers did not want to talk yesterday and their tears acted as a barrier to any approach. From one headstone, a photograph of Paul Davies smiles out across the valley. The inscription says simply: "And for a little while we

had him all to ourselves." Most of the surviving bereaved parents stayed away from the service, preferring to wait until the reporters had gone so they could express their grief in private.

For them, every day is an anniversary. The catastrophe on that day was so terrible they can never forget or properly heal.

As a young reporter, I saw at first hand their courage and witnessed their terrible rage. I marvelled also at their sense of community and in the way they shared their sorrow. They didn't have much material wealth then and have less now because the pit that gave their work has gone.

Indirectly, it was that which killed their children so they do not mourn its passing. Yesterday, a call was made for British Coal to pay £1.5 million for a new primary school for Aberfan to replace the building in which local children have been taught since Pantglas junior school was destroyed.

British Coal has already offered to donate the land on the site of the old Merthyr Vale colliery, but Mid Glamorgan county councillors say that is not enough. Trevor Richards, chairman of the education buildings committee, said:

"Aberfan has paid dearly for its coal industry. It was the fault of the National Coal Board that this tip slid onto the school and they deprived the village of a generation of children. They owe the community a tremendous debt."

Private c

Waldegrave onslaught on Labour's 'campaign of smears'

Minister sets out to 'nail falsehoods'

By OUR PARLIAMENTARY STAFF

THE government went on to the attack over the national health service last night, accusing the Labour party of "a truly scurrilous campaign of smears and scares".

William Waldegrave, the health secretary, opening a set piece debate in the Commons, said that he wanted to nail the falsehood about privatisation. "There has been and will be no fundamental shift away from a service financed overwhelmingly from taxation", he said.

Mr Waldegrave said that the government had staged the debate to show three things:

■ to nail the falsehood that the Tories intended to privatisate health care in Britain and that NHS trusts were leaving the health service;

■ to dissect the increasingly desperate and contradictory shifts of line made by Labour over the past few weeks as they had been forced to retreat from allegations they knew to be false;

■ to demonstrate that Labour had no serious policy for the management of the health service; no position that stood up on money for health; and that it is our domination of the real agenda which has forced them to resort to a truly scurrilous campaign of smears and scares".

He wanted to nail "once and for all" the falsehood about privatisation that had begun with mendacious leaflets at the Monmouth by-election claiming that the local trust hospital was opting out of the NHS.

Labour had put an allegation in a simple, straightforward and false way when Neil Kinnock at the Labour party conference had said:

"The Tories will privatisate the health service".

Since then, Mr Waldegrave said, "we get six redefinitions a day, we get backtracking and filling, we get wriggling and finally we get retreat".

"We all know how Labour have sought in the last few days to backtrack. We have privatisation replaced by creeping privatisation; we have creeping privatisation replaced by 'commercialisation'. We have had falsehoods replaced by creeping falsehoods."

He mocked the allegation that having charges for some items meant privatisation while acknowledging that the government had brought in charges for eye tests and dental checks.

He said that Aneurin Bevan, founder of the NHS, must have been the first privatiser since he had passed

legislation for prescription charges and his government had introduced charges for teeth and spectacles. Mr Waldegrave added: "There have always been some charges for some services in the NHS, under Labour and under the Conservatives".

He said: "There has been and will be no fundamental shift away from a service financed overwhelmingly from taxation. If charging is to be the definition of privatisation, Labour invented it. Labour are condemning themselves out of their own mouths."

He derided different definitions of "privatisation". One, he said, amounted to high waiting lists. "If that is so, then Labour are princes of privatisation. There has never been a Labour government which did not leave waiting lists higher than it found them."

Responding to claims that the Tories were driving people into the private sector, he said that the largest percentage rise in private insurance had been in 1979 — a 28 per cent increase.

He added: "No-one can doubt what caused that: it was Coles pickets controlling access to the cancer wards; it was

THE TIMES

total collapse and crisis in the service; it was Labour's running of the health service which was the best recruiter for private health care there has ever been.

Labour was making promises for the reasons set out by Barbara Castle in her diary when she said that they were essential political sweeteners for the unions. "That is what generates their apology for a policy now", he said.

He added: "At a time when other countries are seeking to rein back spending on health, we have increased our share of spending by a full percentage point of a bigger national product since 1979. It is fear of these facts and the void of their own policy which have led Labour to smear and mislead."

Mr Cook knew the privatisation smear to be false. Let him say that now. He should also say what his plans were for the management of the health service, and how much he would spend. He had had 12 years. He might at least answer these questions.

The shiftiness of Labour policy contrasted with that of the government. He repeated the Conservative party conference commitment that there would be no charges for hospital treatment or visits to the doctor and no privatisation of health care.

Robin Cook, the shadow health secretary, rose to loud cheers from the Labour benches and was subjected to numerous interruptions and shouts from the Conservative side.

He said that the 900,000 people on waiting lists and the 300,000 people who had had their operations cancelled in the past year would regard Mr Waldegrave's speech as wholly irrelevant.

Mr Waldegrave had accused him of retreating from previous statements. "I cannot hope to rival the speed he moved on tax relief since only yesterday", he said. Mr Waldegrave admitted that the scheme did not work very well. All they needed know was a letter from Margaret Thatcher saying that she was painfully aware that she was responsible and mystified that it was such a flop.

The scheme was not just not working very well, it was not working at all. It had cost £150 million, money that would have been better spent on geriatric wards that the government was closing. It was a daft scheme and it came from the same review which led to the dogmatic changes in the health service. It was the first proposal in the white paper to be implemented and the first to be abandoned.

He attacked the government for continuing with its risky policy of trust status hospitals without having an enquiry, although it had set up a committee of enquiry in London.

Phillip Oppenheim, Conservative MP for Amber Valley, interrupted to ask Mr Cook to say by how much he thought the health service was underfunded and if it would be a priority of a future Labour government to redress that underfunding.

Mr Cook replied: "Yes, it will be a priority". Pressed by Mr Waldegrave on the point, he said Labour would fully fund any wage award in a way not done since 1980. Second, when making a budget for the health service, Labour would take into account the growing number of elderly people.

They were the people who had created the service and now they found, cruelly, that they could not get into it when they had to be abandoned.

"In the first year we will start on tackling underfunding and we will continue to do so year on year."

Labour would improve the health service next time as they had last time. The last Labour government had provided more extra nurses and doctors in five years than "this lot" had done in more than ten years. In every year Labour had increased real resources by twice as much as the Conservatives had.

Conservative protests grew louder as Mr Cook quoted cases to demonstrate his case that the NHS was underfunded and he mentioned an ambulance service using a telephone answering machine to deal with a 999 call for a heart attack.

Labour would rebuild the NHS and bring back into local health services those hospitals that had gone it alone as trusts, but into authorities that represented not only the secretary of state of the day but the local communities. "We will set each of them a

performance agreement which

stand that the children of those who could not afford decent food would grow up stunted and those who could not afford sufficient heating could die in the winter. "That is one reason we shall end poverty wages with a minimum wage."

Conservatives had imposed on the health service a wrong agenda with wrong priorities. They had perfectly demonstrated that last year when they discovered that they could not afford the changes to the health service and to community care and chose to plough ahead with the former.

They had not provided care in the community, when they moved patients from geriatric wards into private nursing homes. That was simply moving people from public to private institutions. Labour would provide an earmarked payment to local authorities for home help services. They would also restore free eye tests.

They would take steps to plug the biggest gap in the government's list by reducing inequalities in health care between income levels. "They have spent a decade levering open the inequalities in income and cannot now admit that they have also widened inequalities in health. We can do it because we understand that people who are poor will also be in poor health."

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Labour could also under-

ADRIAN BROOKS



Waldegrave: there have always been charges for some health services



Cook (left) and Fowler: for and against Labour case

Private care companies denounce tax plan

Private health care companies said yesterday that the proposed abolition of tax relief on policies for the elderly will harm the NHS, reports Lin Jenkins

Private firms believe that the proposed abolition of tax relief on policies for the elderly will harm the NHS, reports Lin Jenkins

already pay high premiums for policies, many of which do not cover chronic health problems, which become more likely in old age.

Julia Bailey, spokesman for PPP, Britain's second largest private health company, conceded that introduction of the tax relief two years ago had generated little new business, but said that its abolition would be regrettable. She said: "It cost between £1 million and £2 million to set up the new policies, print the brochures

and that sort of thing, and will cost a lot to dismantle, and that cost has to be passed on to the subscribers."

About 200,000 of the company's 1.75 million clients are over 60. "Abolishing tax relief will price private health insurance out of the market for old people, thereby adding to the pressure on the national health service," she said.

Bupa estimates that premiums will rise by between £200 and £400 a year for 200,000 of its members if

the abolition proposed by William Waldegrave, the health secretary, goes ahead. Mike Smith, managing director, said: "Many of these members will now find it difficult to continue to pay their subscriptions, in which case they will have to return to being treated by the NHS. This will add further pressure to waiting lists."

Bupa suggested that if each of these over 60s claimed £500 a year for treatment, it was saving the health service £100 million a year. "We are talking about an age group which is likely to be making claims. They are also the group most likely to need the things for which waiting times with the NHS are the longest, such as prostate operations, cataract

surgery and hip replacements — over 25 per cent of the latter are done in the private sector," Sheila Longley, the group's spokesman said.

The company is planning to write to Mr Waldegrave and Norman Lamont, the Chancellor, with its view.

Tax relief is available to all age groups on health insurance in Germany, The Netherlands, Switzerland, Austria and Spain, under several broadly similar schemes. Tax relief is available in France and Belgium on disability insurance and in America the employer gets the tax incentive, although the recipient is not taxed on the health cover as a benefit in kind.

Centre's 'retreat' upsets right

By NICHOLAS WOOD
POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

REACTION

TORY right-wingers reacted yesterday with a mixture of anger and dismay to the disclosure by William Waldegrave, the health secretary, that he would raise no objection to scrapping tax relief on private health insurance.

Their dismay was fuelled by weekend reports that John Major is planning to give full credit to Michael Heseltine's interventionist instincts by offering him the industry department if the Tories win the election.

The anger over private health insurance, which extended to the government whip, came from those who had fondly believed that after months of hard pounding over the health service the Tories were at last making some headway in their efforts to refute Labour's charge that ministers were intent on privatising the service.

They had been looking forward to yesterday's debate as an opportunity to nail what they regard as Labour's lies. But by yesterday lunchtime, disillusioned right-wingers were pulling out of the debate in the belief that Robin Cook, the Opposition's chief health spokesman, would not pass up the unexpected bonus of another chance to portray the government as beating an uncertain retreat from the high tide of the radicalism of the Thatcher years.

The dismay went deeper, with the poll tax heading for oblivion, higher public spending taking precedence over tax cuts, royal commissions making a comeback and the prime minister adopting a more emollient line than his predecessor over foreign affairs, the right is becoming increasingly anxious about the welfare of the Thatcher inheritance.

John Carlisle, Tory MP for Luton North and an outspoken scourge of the liberal conscience for more than a decade, thought Mr Waldegrave's move a "retrograde".

"We should be giving more tax incentives to private health schemes, and that includes many millions of people, including trade unionists, who want to choose to spend their money in this way."

A former cabinet minister concurred. The reason why Britain came well down international tables measuring health spending as a proportion of GDP was that its private sector was so much smaller than other countries. Tax relief for the elderly, although it was unlikely to make a big impact given the size of premiums for the over-60s, was a step in the right direction.

As with many on the right, Mr Carlisle saw the health unit as symbolic of a broader repudiation of the Thatcherite faith. "I am very concerned about this drift away from what to my mind are good, true Conservative policies, like standing on your own feet and spending your money how you will... There seems to be a lemming-like rush to drop everything that was there before."

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AROUND THE LOBBY

Illegal parking to cost more

Motorists parking illegally are to face stiffer fines. Kenneth Baker, home secretary, announced in a written reply that from next April parking illegally on a London red route will incur a fine of £40; illegal parking elsewhere in London will mean a fine of £30 and £20 in other places. The fixed penalty for other endorsable offences will be £40.

Lord's Prayer warning

The church commissioners should consider taking £1 from a clergyman's stipend every time he uses the new version of the Lord's Prayer referring to "our Mother and Father", Ian Taylor (Essex, C) said at questions.

But Michael Alison, representing the commissioners, indicated that a clergyman who used the new prayer in church would be breaking the law. He said that at the liturgy of the Church of England was approved by Parliament and had a statutory basis, it was unlawful to change the present words of the Lord's Prayer or any authorised service.

Commons on television

It is hoped that television transmission of the complete debates in the House of Commons will begin in the new year. John MacGregor, leader of the Commons, said during question time. He said that there had been problems with the Marco Polo satellite, but he hoped that it would be used as soon as the problems had been overcome.

Jackpot

The Treasury raised £98,491,000 from fruit machine licence duty last year, according to figures issued in a written reply from Gillian Shepherd, Treasury minister. Nearly £87 million was raised in 1987, but that jumped to £96,777,000 the next year.

Clean water

About 99 per cent of Welsh drinking water is up to EC standards or exceeds them, Nicholas Bennett, Welsh under secretary, said at question time. He criticised Labour MPs for "running down Britain".

Parliament today

Commons (2.30): Questions; employment; prime minister. Export and investment guarantees bill. Lords amendments. Prerogation.

Lords (2.30): Debates on waste water treatment and on tobacco products; health warnings. Prerogation.

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Conference on motorists' behaviour

Drivers feel breaking law 'is worth risk'

By MICHAEL DYNES, TRANSPORT CORRESPONDENT

MOTORISTS who flout the law do so in the belief that it is socially acceptable and because the chances of getting caught are slim, a conference on driver behaviour was told yesterday.

Although recognising the need for traffic laws, some drivers regarded them as guidelines to be broken when necessary. Others, who rarely break the law, could not see the point of adhering to some laws, such as the 30mph limit in urban areas.

The findings were unveiled by Claire Corbett, a researcher at the law department of Brunel University, at a conference in London on new insights into driver behaviour organised by the Parliamentary Advisory Council for Transport Safety.

Dr Corbett's research suggests that some motorists enjoy breaking the law, are convinced there is little chance of getting caught, and believe that the penalties do not act as a sufficient deter-

rent. Most, however, accepted that drink-driving was socially unacceptable.

The research, completed in June and funded by the Transport and Road Research Laboratory, was based on a survey of 1,100 drivers. Many of them had been involved in accidents and had been disqualified from driving and were out, therefore, a representative sample.

Dr Corbett said: "At the one extreme, high offenders chew many traffic laws as standards for their own behaviour, and at the other, low offenders may try to stick to all traffic laws whether or not they agree with them because they have a high moral commitment to all laws on and off the road."

• The Princess of Wales yesterday pleaded with drivers to help reduce the "terrible waste of young and innocent lives" in road accidents. If motorists were more alert, the "chilling statistic" of some 400 children killed and thousands injured

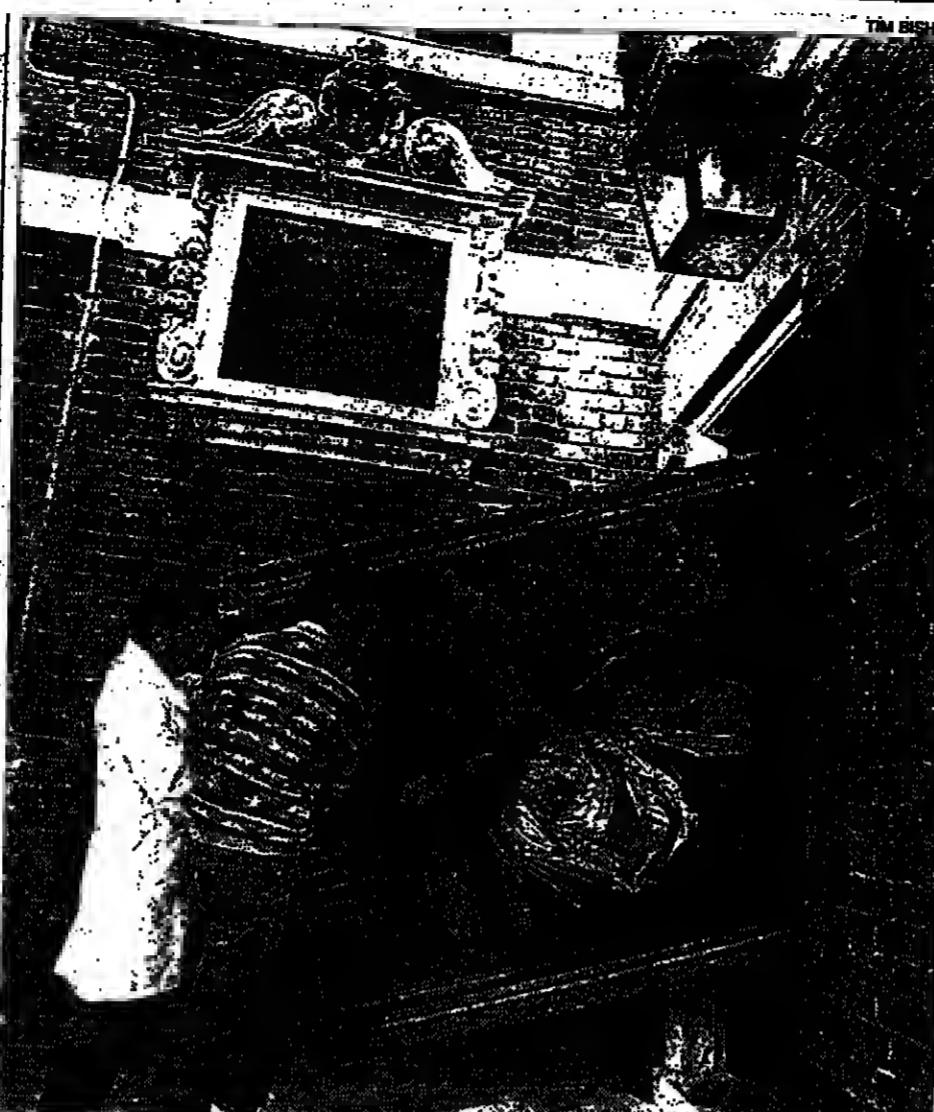
on the roads each year would be reduced, she said.

The safety of their children is paramount for every parent. Speaking as a mother of two active children, I know that this can sometimes be an awesome responsibility," she said at the launch of the transport department's child pedestrian safety campaign.

She said road accidents were the major single cause of child death. The Princess, speaking at Lancaster House, London, went on: "We all know that even the best-behaved child can be impulsive and unpredictable. Crossing the road is no exception. So drivers need to be more alert to the potential danger, particularly on residential roads where so many children come to grief."

Families also had their part to play in educating their youngsters in road safety, said the princess, who is patron of the Child Accident Prevention Trust and of Headway, the head injuries organisation.

King's workmen at the Old Royal Observatory, Greenwich, removing a painting of Charles II from the Octagon Room as part of a restoration programme



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Glasgow switch 'too fast to measure'

By NIGEL HAWKES
SCIENCE EDITOR

ENGINEERS at Glasgow University have designed what is believed to be the world's fastest switch, which operates so quickly there is no way of measuring it.

The switch could be used for packing more than a million telephone conversations on to a single optical fibre cable, or for creating superfast computers using light which may supersede today's electronic computers.

The Glasgow switch is operated by laser light and can go from on to off or back again in less than ten picoseconds, the time light takes to travel three millimetres. A picosecond is a millionth of a millionth of a second.

Stewart Aitchison, one of the team that produced the switch, believes that it may be even faster. The time was established in tests at the Centre for Research in Lasers and Electro-Optics at the university of Central Florida, but he thinks the switch is faster than the equipment used to test it.

"We firmly believe that this is the world's fastest semiconductor switch and that it should operate at times of ten femtoseconds," he said. A femtosecond is one thousandth of a picosecond.

The first possible application is in telecommunications. Optical cables already handle many TV channels or telephone calls simultaneously, condensing the information and putting it down the wire in bursts to be reconstituted at the other end. But their capacity is limited by the speed of the data-processing devices. The new switch works quickly enough to send 2,000 TV channels or 1.2 million telephone calls down the same cable at the same time.

The other big advantage of the switch is that it consumes virtually no power. Operating as the optical equivalent of a transistor, the switch might be used in supercomputers able to carry out even more calculations per second than today's machines.

At the heart of the device are two waveguides, made of a semiconductor material called aluminium gallium arsenide, which hold the light in "ribbons" much narrower than a human hair. Light will transfer from one to the other unless a laser is used to alter the refractive properties of one of the ribbons. That gives the switch two states, which can be altered virtually instantaneously.

Solicitor's clerk stole from aged clients

A solicitor's probate clerk who stole from the savings of old and infirm female clients was jailed yesterday. Harold Gregory, aged 61, used his power of attorney to steal from building society accounts of pensioners in their 70s and 80s. Swindon crown court was told.

Gregory, of Swindon, admitted thefts totalling £22,248 from three clients and listed for 23 other offences he had considered. The total stolen was £36,262, of which Gregory has so far repaid £10,000.

Judge Willis, sentencing Gregory to 12 months' imprisonment, of which 10 months are suspended, said that he was guilty of a "double breach of trust", against his employer - a Swindon law firm - and clients who gave him control of their affairs while infirm.

Gregory, who worked for Townsends for 20 years, was arrested after a routine check revealed discrepancies, the court was told. He had got into financial difficulty after the breakup of his marriage of 35 years, Graham Cottle, defending, said. Gregory was ordered to pay £2,262 compensation to Townsends.

Tattoo service

The Wood Green animal shelter at Heydon, Hertfordshire, has set up a national mobile tattooing service to ensure that all remaining pit bull terriers are marked by the November 30 deadline set to avoid destruction.

Putnam fined

David Putnam, the film director, of Little Somersford, Wiltshire, was banned from driving for 14 days after magistrates were told that he had driven at 100mph on the M4, near Swindon, Wiltshire, on his way to meet Chris Patten, the Tory party chairman, in London. He was fined £90.

Rape enquiry

Police are hunting a man who raped a woman aged 82 and stole her savings of £460 at her home at Chelmsley Wood, Birmingham. He is white, 5ft 10in and aged about 45.

Death fall

Christopher Allen, aged 21, a rock climber, of Bolton, Greater Manchester, died when he fell 250ft at Dow Crag, in the Lake District, police said yesterday.

Cyclist killed

A cyclist was killed in a collision with an ambulance taking another injured cyclist to hospital at Water End, Clifton, York.

Puffins return as rats take the bait

By KERRY GILL

PUFFINS, shelduck and black guillemots are returning to Ailsa Craig, the rocky islet off the southwest coast of Scotland, after conservationists rid the island of a huge population of brown rats that had multiplied over the past hundred years.

The poisoning of the thousands of rats that had ousted the island's last breeding puffins by the early Eighties has been so successful that conservationists on the Isles of Scilly and the Canaries are considering similar methods to get rid of their unwanted rodents.

Ailsa Craig, two miles in circumference and a protected wildlife area designated under EC legislation, used to boast hundreds of thousands of puffins living in burrows and untroubled by predators. But in 1889 supply ships began visiting the island to service the new lighthouse. With them came the rats, which, by 1984, had chased away the last puffin.

The Ailsa Craig working group was established to investigate ways of getting rid of the rats while, at the same time, protecting any birdlife from poison. Helped by the Nature Conservancy Council, the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds, the Scottish Ornithologists' Club and RSPB, the group had three tonnes of Warfarin flown by Royal Navy helicopter to the island.

Placed in specially designed bait boxes, it affected the rats but posed no threat to bird life. The poisoned rats returned to their burrows to die, leaving no carcasses above ground.

Steve Sankey, regional officer for the RSPB, said yesterday that the decline in puffin pairs was most marked from about 1910

until the mid-Thirties. "Most sea birds nest on the cliffs, making them safe from predators, but puffins nest in burrows, making them extremely vulnerable to rats. We believe that the rats reached Ailsa Craig in cargo vessels supplying the lighthouse from 1889 onwards and that was the time that the puffin population began to fall," Mr Sankey said.

The poisoning took place in March and, after an inspection, it appears that all the rats have been dealt with.

A map of the Ailsa Craig area showing its location in the Firth of Clyde, Scotland, with Glasgow and the North of Ireland nearby.

with. More bait may be put down next year to make sure there are none left. Mr Sankey said: "The rats are such prolific breeders it is essential that they all go. These are the common rats which are notorious villains in that they have human health implications, but we are optimistic that they have all been poisoned."

Black guillemots and shelduck are now nesting on Ailsa Craig, equally famous for its granite used to make Scottish curling stones, and puffins have at last reappeared on the island. Rat elimination proved successful more than 20 years ago on Cardigan Island where shearwaters have since returned in large numbers.

Conservationists in America have gone a stage further in the Atlantic seaboard state of Maine, where they have successfully used painted concrete puffins to attract the real thing.

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Soviet parliament makes creaky debut

From MARY DEJEVSKY IN MOSCOW

WITH no chairman, no agenda and five of the 12 Soviet republics unrepresented, the twice-postponed autumn session of the Soviet parliament was finally convened yesterday.

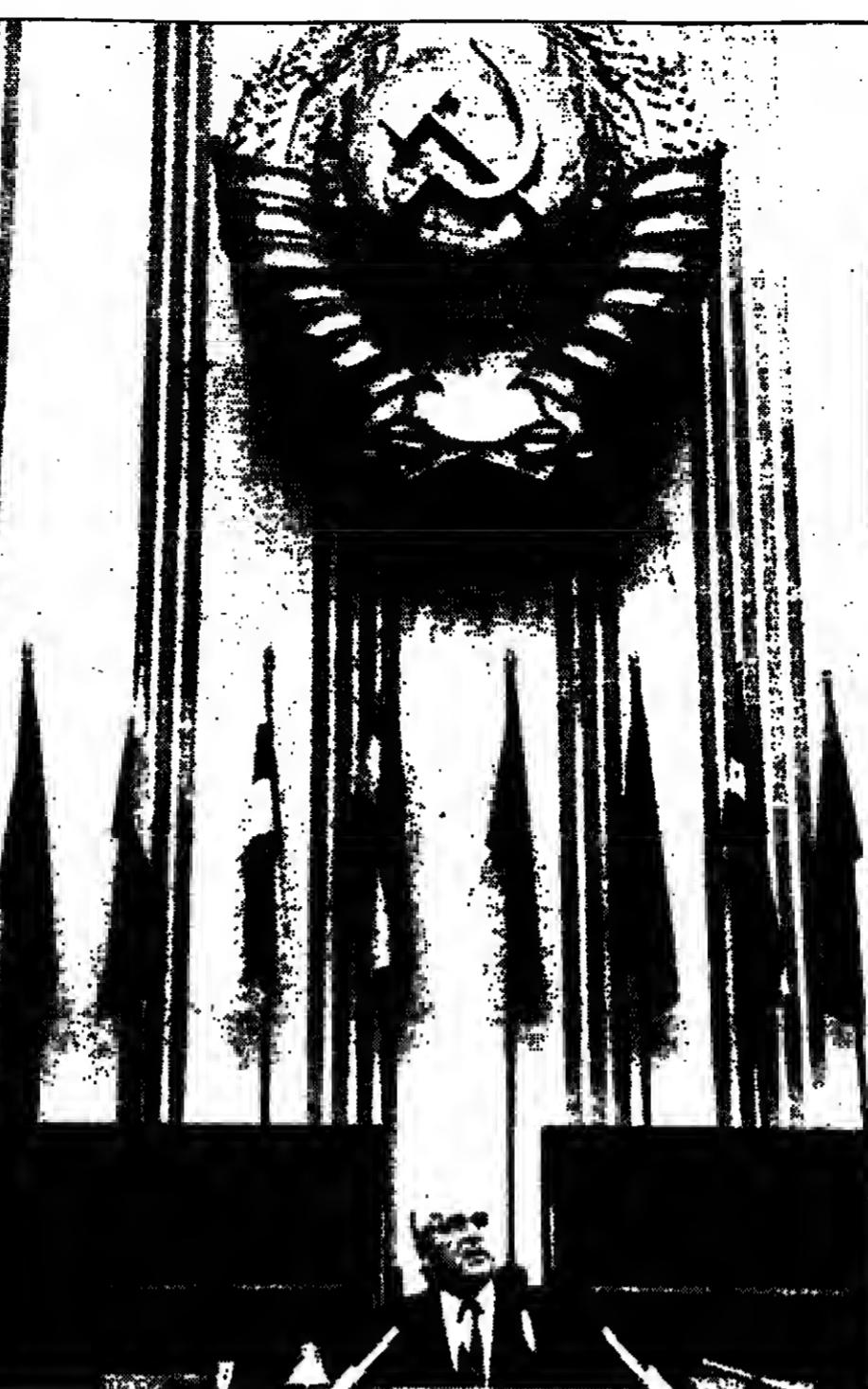
A microcosm of the administrative confusion which prevails across the former union, the Supreme Soviet was opened by its oldest delegate (to prevent inter-republic squabbling for the chairmanship) before hearing a lack-lustre address by President Gorbachev on the virtues of democracy and of staying together. Within 45 minutes debate had broken up into republican delegations to discuss how to proceed.

During the opening the back of the platform was adorned with eight flags — those of the seven republics represented and the red and gold hammer and sickle of the Soviet Union. In the body of the hall

the depleted ranks of deputies were filled out by a good number from the Congress of People's Deputies, the now defunct, but not disbanded, full union parliament, and members of the interim economic committee which has taken over the economic responsibilities of the former union government.

Two of the republics not taking part, Moldavia and Azerbaijan, each sent a group of observers. But the Ukraine, whose delegation would have been the second largest, sent nobody. Members of the new parliament's steering committee said last week that they had had no contact with Georgia, and Armenia is reported not yet to have decided whether or not to take part.

One of the new parliament's first unpublicised tasks was to try to muster delegations to visit each errant republic with an appeal to attend.



Lonely at the top: President Gorbachev addressing the autumn session of the Soviet parliament which opened yesterday with five republics unrepresented

Serb dissidents urge Dubrovnik reprieve

From DESA TREVISEAN IN BELGRADE

SERBIAN intellectuals supporting the anti-war movement have issued a new appeal to save Dubrovnik, the picturesque seaside resort on the Adriatic coast. They have demanded that the Yugoslav army withdraw immediately from the area, saying that "the civilised world" would never forgive them if any part of the historic city, under UN protection as a cultural treasure, was destroyed.

"There is no such aim that could justify destruction of what was created in the past and what we are obliged to safeguard and leave to posterity," the appeal, signed by thousands of Serbs, said. The anti-war movement, gaining in support, also demanded that the army declare Dubrovnik and its surrounding vil-

lages a demilitarised zone. The movement had initiated late-night vigils in a Belgrade park to highlight its opposition to the war.

One of its activities is gathering information on suspected war crimes while another is providing legal assistance to those refusing to take part in the fighting. An appeal also has been sent to Serbian opposition parties to take a clear stance against the war and condemn the destruction of cultural monuments.

But the sporadic fighting between Serbs and Croats has continued to wreck each ceasefire that is negotiated: the tenth signed last week in The Hague was doomed from the start. At least 25 people have been killed since last Saturday, when the latest ceasefire was scheduled to take effect.

Hundreds of young army conscripts and reservists have been killed and many more crippled. Their families have now accused the federal army of concealing the exact number of casualties. Many towns and villages have been devastated and more than 200,000 refugees, both Croats and Serbs, have fled from their homes. Flights out of Yugoslavia are now fully booked as the young flee to Western Europe to seek asylum as conscientious objectors.

Croatian radio reported that clashes on Sunday night near Dubrovnik were the worst. It claimed that resorts along the stretch of coast were "unrecognisable". Milni and Plat, the picturesque resorts a few miles south of Dubrovnik and the most popular among British holiday makers, were said to have been badly damaged. "Not a single hotel in the area is whole," the radio said.

Mortars from army shelling fell a few hundred yards from Dubrovnik's old city walls. A team of inspectors from the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation is now on its way to the ancient city, which is under its protection.

Prague hijack men seek \$1m

Prague — Two men yesterday hijacked a Czechoslovak Tu-134 aircraft at Prague airport, holding five crew members and two passengers hostage and demanding a ransom of \$1 million (£580,000). They released ten of the 12 passengers and asked for two parachutes.

The plane was on an internal flight to Bratislava, the Slovak capital. (Reuters)

Election defeat

Sofia — The defeat of Bulgaria's communists has been confirmed by the central electoral commission. It said the anti-communist Union of Democratic Forces won 34.36 per cent of the vote and the Socialist, former Communist, party 33.14 per cent. (Reuters)

High flyer

Algeria — Hector, a 45lb Andes-born condor with a 10ft wingspan, has celebrated his 10th birthday at Hamma zoo in Algiers, the curator, Faizal Haffasi, said. (AFP)

Oslo expels Moscow envoys

From ASSOCIATED PRESS IN OSLO

EIGHT Soviet diplomats suspected of spying were yesterday declared unwelcome in Norway and the three still in the country were ordered to leave by November 15.

The opening ceremony, which was televised live, appeared to be largely for show,

to demonstrate to domestic and foreign audiences that a central parliament still exists — just. From now on, however, the parliament's two chambers will meet separately, joining only on rare occasions. What power it has had mostly trickled away to the republics.

With 600 points designed to see how 40 years of division affected character formation. They traced two basic differences. One was that western Germans were more likely to be independent minded. The other was that easterners were "more capable of love". The two characteristics, they found, were really just two sides of the same coin. On one hand, greater freedom created the ability to take decisions; on the other, constant subordination to a collective system weakened a person's ability

manner incompatible with their diplomatic status", adding that none of them would be allowed to return.

The *Aftenposten* newspaper said that Mikhail Butkov, aged 33, the Oslo-based Soviet journalist and KGB agent who defected to the West in June, had confirmed the suspicions of the Norwegian intelligence agency that the eight diplomats were spying. "This has to do with the Butkov defection and the excellent work of our intelligence service," a spokesman for the foreign ministry said.

He said Norway considered that the matter was closed and did not expect Moscow to expel Norwegian diplomats in retaliation. He said that the eight Soviet diplomats were not believed to have obtained information that would be damaging to Norway.

The foreign ministry said the expulsion brought to 47 the number of Soviet diplomats expelled from Norway since the second world war.

Tyranny touches hearts democracy cannot reach

From IAN MURRAY IN BONN.

COMMUNISM is good for the libido, according to studies carried out since the unification of Germany. A recent report for the first all-German conference of psychologists since 1933 explained how growing up under a centralised system affects the parts which democracy cannot reach.

The study was conducted by Peter Becker and Klaus-Dieter Hinsen from Trier. They interviewed 300 East Germans and 298 West Germans aged between 18 and 65, using a questionnaire to make up his own mind. This strengthened the feeling of solidarity with others, causing a person to become "more capable of love."

Figures issued yesterday by the federal statistical office show that love and marriage have become decidedly less popular since unification brought Western-style democracy to eastern Germany just over a year ago.

The number of marriages there during the first seven months of this year fell by 57 per cent to about 28,000. Over the same per-

iod the number of births fell by 40 per cent to about 67,000. In the west, unification pushed up the birth rate by 2.7 per cent to 424,000, although the number of marriages fell by 4.5 per cent to 218,000.

The greater ability of a communist-trained person to love was not the only finding of the Trier survey. The questionnaire discovered that respect for order, principles and thrift along with a regular lifestyle was far greater in the east than in the west. However, the re-

Major protests to Delors over 'green' roadblock

From ROBIN OAKLEY, POLITICAL EDITOR, IN HARARE

JOHN Major has protested angrily to Jacques Delors, the president of the European Commission, about the action of Carlo Ripa di Meana, the European Community environment commissioner, who last week demanded that work should be stopped on a number of British transport projects, including the M3 extension through Twyford Down.

In his strongest criticism yet of the EC, the prime minister said at a press conference in Harare that the commission's intervention was "astonishing". He said: "We had no previous notice of it. It was not the first time it has happened. It seems to me to be on the basis of ill-informed reports and not facts. It is absolutely how the European Commission ought not to behave, and I have told them so."

Downing Street has dispatched a stiff note to M Delors demanding that Signor Ripa di Meana be rapped over the knuckles for what is seen as an unwarranted intrusion into Britain's national affairs. Britain accepts the right of the commission to act in matters of genuine environmental concern across the EC, such as the pollution of common waterways or of beaches. But it argues that the EC has no right to interfere by calling for an end to work on projects, such as the east London river crossing and the M11-to-Hackney link, because these are projects which have no effect on Britain's EC partners.

The prime minister is particularly incensed by the timing of the EC move before the sensitive Maastricht summit on economic and political union. Britain believes that Signor Ripa di Meana's action, in a letter to Malcolm Rifkind, the transport secretary, makes a nonsense of EC claims of practising "subsidiarity" — leaving decisions to be taken at the lowest level possible — and is expecting the EC to announce at the next meeting of European environment ministers that Signor Ripa di Meana's request has been withdrawn.

M Delors and other EC officials are privately furious over the way in which the demands, that Britain stop seven big building projects, were handled. Signor Ripa di Meana is likely to come under attack for headline-grabbing tactics when the EC's 17 commissioners meet in Strasbourg

port did not consider these to be a character deformation "especially as they seem to be typical German virtues".

Another long-term study, carried out in the east by Klaus-Dieter Hinsen and Erik Kaselke of the Humboldt University in east Berlin, showed effects of the rapid change from communism to democracy. There were few variations between the first two studies. Both suggest that freedom has been its own antidote to the unsettling effects for which it is responsible.

Yesterday's was the fourth deadline imposed for an agreement on the so-called European Economic Area, and the Dutch presidency of the EC says the talks cannot carry on eating into the crowded pre-Maastricht timetable.

With no agreement, Efta, which was formed in 1958, could become meaningless as the list of its members applying for full EC membership grows, but none the less many Efta nations seem to feel the European Economic Area can only be agreed in full, or not at all.

"Nothing will be ready unless all of it is ready because the issues are so intertwined," said Ulf Dinkelspiel, the Swedish trade minister.

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Shamir confident he will stay in power

From RICHARD BEESTON IN JERUSALEM

YITZHAK Shamir, the Israeli prime minister, said yesterday his government was not under threat of collapse because of unease among his small extremist coalition partners about the Middle East peace conference scheduled to begin in Madrid on October 30.

Speaking at Ben-Gurion airport before leaving for Strasbourg, where he will address the European parliament today, Mr Shamir was trying to ease fears after Sunday night's decision by the Tehiya party to withdraw its three Knesset members from the government coalition if Israel attends the talks. "I do not see any

danger to the existence of the government at this time," he said. A cabinet majority had backed his decision to attend.

Political sources said that more defections were unlikely until the conference began and emphasised that the two remaining right-wing parties and the larger religious parties had pledged to remain in the government. Yitzhak Rabin, the deputy leader of the opposition Labour party, earlier vowed that his party would not allow the Likud government to fall while it was engaged in negotiations on Middle East peace. He said: "The Labour party will not

allow any vote of no confidence while the peace process is going on."

Although it now seems certain that the talks will go ahead, Mr Shamir reiterated yesterday that he reserved the right to boycott the conference until he had seen a list of the Palestinian delegates. Israel insists that they must not be members of the Palestine Liberation Organisation, and must come from the occupied territories. "We will see if this list meets the rules we have accepted," he said.

The last-minute caution by Mr Shamir was raised after the leader of the Palestinian delegation, Saad Eddin Abul-Shafti, judged the issue of PLO participation yesterday, when he said: "In the sense that all Palestinians have allegiance to the PLO so they (the delegation) are."

Mr Shamir also made it clear that Israel would continue to take any action necessary to secure its safety regardless of what effect it would have on the forthcoming talks. "We have not put any restriction on ourselves and we do not feel any restriction from striking at Hezbollah terrorists or other kind of terrorists who harm our soldiers," he said.

The Israeli air force yesterday attacked a Shia Muslim militia position in southern Lebanon to avenge the death on Sunday of three Israeli soldiers in a bomb blast in Lebanon.

Nevertheless, the government is displaying some sensitivity before next week's talks. Yesterday it was revealed that a new settlement, due to be opened in the Israeli-occupied Golan Heights the day the conference opens, has been put off.

Among the antiquities and relics involved in the negotiations are pottery, statuettes, coins dating from the Ptolemaic period, the remains of pillars of a Roman temple, prehistoric tools and phara-



Taste of freedom: the mother of Hassan Hamka hugs and kisses her son in Tyre yesterday shortly after his release from an Israeli prison in southern Lebanon. He had been held prisoner for seven years and was freed along with 14 other Lebanese inmates

Ozal prime minister quits after poll defeat

From ANDREW FINKEL IN ISTANBUL

MESUT Yilmaz, the Turkish prime minister, offered the resignation of his government yesterday after his Motherland party came second in Sunday's general election.

Now it is up to Suleyman Demirel, aged 67, who has been in the political wilderness for 11 years, to try to form a coalition. His True Path party topped the poll with 27.4 per cent of the vote which, at the latest tally, will give it 182 seats in the 450-seat assembly. This means he will have to find a coalition partner.

He has a choice of three, including a pro-Islamic party whose strong showing was the big surprise of the election. Necmettin Erbakan's Welfare party won approximately 16.8 per cent of the vote, partly through its pre-electoral pact with an extreme nationalist party. The nationalists, head-

ed by Alpaslan Turkes, another political veteran, now make up a block of 20 of the Welfare party's estimated 62 MPs, enough to give it the status and privileges of a "group" in parliament.

Mr Demirel was in coalition with Mr Turkes and Mr Erbakan in the 1970s in a government remembered for the start of left and right-wing violence that ended with the military coup of 1980. Mr Erbakan's anti-Zionist, anti-American and anti-Western banking rhetoric will fit uneasily with Mr Demirel's promises of a more liberal society with homes and cars for everyone.

The logical ideological bedfellow for the True Path would, in fact, be the ousted Motherland party, which is expected to have 111 seats.

Hostage hopes, page 1
Dialogue of the deaf, page 14

South African police to be trained in Britain

From SAM KILEY IN HARARE

MEMBERS of the South African police, who over the last few years have become known for their liberal use of shotguns, tear gas and whips, may soon arrive in Britain for training in the "softly-softly" approach to community policing.

According to British government sources, the South African government is enthusiastic about sending a number of its police officers abroad to take courses in race relations and community policing. Although they refused to reveal when police officers would arrive in Britain, ministers said that both the African National Congress and

law and order in South Africa.

The policing initiative is part of a policy to build up democratic institutions in South Africa which Douglas Hurd, the foreign secretary, hopes will lead to a smooth transition to multiparty democracy in that country. Last week it was announced that five members of the African National Congress would arrive for civil service training in Britain in November as part of the same scheme.

Nelson Mandela, the ANC president, met John Major last week and, like other ANC officials who had meetings with the British delegation to the Commonwealth heads of government meeting in Harare, pressed the problem of spiralling violence in South African townships. This has claimed hundreds of lives over the last month and shows no sign of abating despite the signing of a peace agreement between the ANC, the Zulu Inkatha and the National party government.



Japanese to end sanctions

TOKYO — Toshiki Kaifu, the Japanese prime minister, is expected to lift the bulk of Tokyo's remaining economic sanctions against South Africa in the next few days (Joanna Pitman writes).

In the wake of indications that the Commonwealth will phase out restrictions on tourism and direct air links and that it favours the phased withdrawal of trade sanctions, the international trade and industry ministry said that Tokyo would lift its economic embargo "very soon". Until 1988, Japan was South Africa's main trading partner.

Brown enters US race

JERRY Brown, the former governor of California, yesterday declared himself the seventh Democrat in next year's presidential race, railing against Washington politicians who "run the United States of America like a private club".

Mr Brown, whose 1970s elections were won in an atmosphere of reaction to the Watergate era, is trying again to tap the feeling of resentment against the excesses of government. He announced his third presidential bid by attacking both Republicans and Democrats for the "unholy alliance of private greed and corrupt politics" which, he said, was "devastating the nation".

Since his last successful race in 1978, Mr Brown has been a regular object of mockery. He is still known as "Governor Moonbeam" because of his fascination for space communications and Zen philosophy during the days that he ran California from a tiny apartment.

The Brown candidacy has added to the sense of uncertainty in Washington as politicians and commentators struggle to decide what stance to take on the "term limits" issue. The Thomas hearings have temporarily intensified the sense of dissatisfaction with entrenched incumbents on Capitol Hill.

Domestic politics has suddenly come alive after months of domination by foreign affairs.

A former California governor seeks to tap resentment against government excesses, Peter Stothard writes from Washington

So, too, does his rejection of financial backing from big lobby groups and his statement that he will accept no contributions larger than \$100 (259).

He made his announcement in Philadelphia, invoking the spirit of the age of Thomas Jefferson when politics was a business for gentleman amateurs. He said that "we, the people" had to reclaim American democracy from professional organizations and propaganda machines.

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Domestic politics has suddenly come alive after months of domination by foreign affairs.

The stuttering economy is making the White House increasingly nervous. Both parties are working hard to produce tax-cutting legislation to appeal to the middle class, with the White House raising the issue for the first time yesterday and the 1988 Democratic vice-presidential candidate, Lloyd Bentsen, beating his rivals to the starting gate with a \$72.5 billion anti-recession package.

The White House also had to deal yesterday with the fallout from Louisiana where the incumbent Buddy Roemer, establishment favourite in the governor's race, was squeezed out by the former Ku Klux Klan leader, David Duke. The president's spokesman, Marvin Fitzwater, strongly rejected Mr Duke but the Republican party knows that it cannot afford to repudiate his message of opposition to racial quotas, social security abuse and abortion.

Mr Brown will start as the best known of all President Bush's opponents. Although his chances of surviving the nomination process are small, the volatility he adds to the race is further encouragement to the still better known and more powerful New York governor, Mario Cuomo.

Police arrest man with pistol at UN

New York — A man armed with a .22 automatic pistol and 100 rounds of ammunition was arrested yesterday as he entered the United Nations building.

Santiago Lopez, aged 42, a Mexican living in Florida, was charged with criminal possession of a weapon, police said. It was not known why he had tried to take the gun into the General Assembly. He told security guards he wanted to speak to a member of the human rights division. (AP)

Muggers strike

New York — Bess Myerson, aged 66, a former Miss America, was mugged at Moscow's international airport by a band of purse-snatchers who knocked her to the floor, breaking her right leg in three places, the *New York Post* reported. She became the first Jewish woman to be crowned Miss America in 1945. (AP)

Flight ordeal

Shaniko, Oregon — Patty Sharp, aged 23, who had never piloted a plane before, reached over the body of her father, who died at the controls of his single-engined aircraft, apparently of a heart attack, and landed it safely. (AP)

Bleak outpost spurns Namibian embrace

From GAVIN BELL IN WALVIS BAY

WILLIE Bezuidenhout is in danger of losing what he regards as his homeland, graciously bequeathed to his ancestors by Queen Victoria, and he does not like it.

As acting town clerk of Walvis Bay, a bleak South African enclave on the Namibian coast, Mr Bezuidenhout is unhappy about moves to integrate the harbour community in the newly independent nation which

surrounds it. "We know they want our harbour, but we don't have it like it," he says. "This is our homeland, and we want to keep it that way."

A mile away, in a black township inundated by sand from enormous dunes, Willfried Mvula is impatient for the Namibian flag to be hoisted above the enclave. A legal adviser to black workers dependent on South African employers, he says: "For us, Walvis Bay is part of Namibia. In our hearts we feel independent, but in reality we are still under colonial rule. There is no excuse for any further delay in ending this anomaly. In distant Windhoek, the Namibian capital, a senior foreign ministry official is unequivocal about sovereignty over the disputed

territory. "In our opinion it

was occupied illegally, ac-

quired by forgery, and re-

claimed by co-trustees of

current international law."

All three men are hostages

of a quirk of colonial history, when Captain Richard Dyer of the British warship HMS Industry sailed into the bay in March 1878, and annexed it in the name of Queen Victoria.

Proclaimed part of the Cape colony six years later, it was

incorporated by South Africa in

1920 under a League of Na-

tions mandate to administer

South West Africa. But when

Namibia became independent

last year, the South African

flag continued to fly.

Negotiations this year pro-

duced agreement in principle

to joint administration of

the enclave pending a definitive

solution. A joint technical

committee is due to work out

the practical details.

Despite its gloomy appear-

ance, a sand-blown industrial

sprawl on the desolate At-

lantic coastline of the Namib

desert, Walvis Bay is of prime

economic importance to Na-

mibia. The only deep water

port between Cape Town and

Luanda, it offers an alterna-

tive to trading routes

through South Africa, and has

a rejuvenated fishing industry.

Andreas Guibeb, the per-

manent secretary for foreign

affairs, accuses Pretoria of

delaying a settlement. "We

have understanding for South

Africa's domestic problems

such as placating its white

constituency, but we would

expect equal sensitivity to the

expectations our government

has to satisfy. We have been

very patient, but the time has

come to begin the process of

reintegration."

Walvis Bay, South African territory

150 miles

ATLANTIC OCEAN

SOUTH AFRICA

NAMIBIA

Windhoek

Walvis Bay, South African territory

150 miles

ATLANTIC OCEAN

SOUTH AFRICA

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Walvis Bay, South African territory

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ATLANTIC OCEAN

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CLASSICAL MUSIC

Survival of the sweetest

ANOTHER Swedish nightingale has ascended into the musical firmament. Ann-Christine Göransson, from Gothenburg, won the BP Peter Pears Award on Saturday and took her place in the line of descent from Jenny Lind and Birgit Nilsson down to Anne-Sofie von Otter and Hillevi Martinpelto today. Nordic voices, which in their distinctive contour and cultivation are adding a subtle new shade to the musical spectrum.

At 24, Göransson has had far less experience either in concert or in opera than her performance suggested. For one rare moment, I completely forgot I was present at the finals of a competition. Her "Per pietà" (from *Cost fan tutte*) was so entirely present that the character of Fiordiligi became incarnate. Darker tones and a sharper force will no doubt soon enter the voice as well, helped by the linguistic facility Göransson showed in her Debussy and, earlier, in Seiber's "The Owl and the Pussy Cat" and a Wolf song.

If a competition really can bring a singer such as Göransson to the fore, then I am almost persuaded of its justification. Almost, but not quite. This crudest of spurs and often unreliable mode of unnatural selection operated true to form in placing the confident and already much employed baritone William Dazeley in second place in preference to the more sensitive and musically intelligent Nathan Berg.

Berg, it is true, has his problems, not least in a somewhat underemployed diaphragm. But then so does Dazeley whose tight, back-of-the-throat voice production makes for a superficially robust but hard and inflexible instrument.

The BP Peter Pears Award places high value on those attributes Pears himself possessed: sensitive phrasing and clear, expressive diction. On these grounds alone, baritone Peter Harvey deserved his fourth place aided in no small part by Sir Charles Mackerras and the orchestra of English National Opera who were such useful accompanists in the second half of the evening.

Bernstein: concert lacked substance

Joseph Lavatte (Brian Bannatyne-Scott) and the billowing tones of Madame Bardeau (Carole Rosen). The eponymous Olympians who perform and, in a bit of midsummer magic, all but take over the play within this weakly constructed Priestley libretto, act like something out of Angela Brazil theatrical, with cries of "Artemis, halloo, halloo" and a shrieking chorus of Bacchantes. Martyn Brabbins conducted a performance in which the singing of Bannatyne-Scott, Christopher Gillett (the wimpish lover, Hector) and Christine Bunning (the hapless Diana) was heroically enjoyable.

AND so to the other big let-down of the week. The London Symphony Orchestra's Leonard Bernstein Memorial Concert at the Barbican lacked exactly that sense of occasion which all Bernstein events really need. Michael Tilson Thomas had chosen a programme of fragments where a single major work would have been a fairer, more substantial tribute. The recently premiered *A Quiet Place* suite was disappointing in its lack of the development and transformation promised at the start, but the *Chichester Psalms* saved the day. Young Daniel Ison's eloquent performance of Psalm 23 sang out all that needed to be said.

HILARY FINCH

Still singing with blues in the blood

A confirmed workaholic, B.B. King used to play about 300 concerts each year. In one year in the late Fifties he managed to fit in more than 340 one-night stands, but now, with his 66th birthday behind him, he admits that he is no longer quite so energetic. So he is down to a mere 250 a year. He will notch up one more this Monday, when he appears at the Albert Hall on a triple-bill with the soul-jazz singer Dianne Reeves and an all-star big band led by the pianist Gene Harris.

King and the band were rehearsing in New York last week prior to their world tour. In the studio on 41st Street the mood was jovial and informal. As he arrived, King roamed the room, seeking out old acquaintances such as the renowned Basie trumpeter Harry Edison and Dizzy Gillespie's long-time partner, James Moody.

Of course, King is supposed to be the star of the show, yet for much of the time he behaves as if this were an audition, laughing nervously over occasional false starts. Not wholly familiar with the arrangements, he seems slightly overawed in the presence of so many schooled musicians. Blues artists, remember, have always been the poor relations of black American music. "I'm no sight-reader," says King. "I know one note from another, but if I had to stand up there and read with those guys I'd never make it."

Then, a roll of the drums and the band kicks into a swaggering arrangement of "Every Day I Have the Blues". As be swaps verses with Dianne Reeves, King is back in control, singing a song that he has performed perhaps thousands of times. With the reeds and brass surging behind him, he gives a blistering yet effortless rendition that many singers would achieve only once or twice in their career.

BRIEFING

Consolation prizes

TOMORROW'S opening of the Royal Ballet season may have been cancelled because of the musicians' dispute, but at least three of the dancers have something to celebrate: they have just picked up overseas awards. Leslie Edwards, whose career with the Royal began 38 years ago, has won the 1991 Lorenzo il Magnifico prize in Florence for his services to ballet; Italian-born Viviana Durante

has been awarded the Positano Prize in Italy; and Tetsuya Kumakawa won the Shimizu and Yoko Morishita prize in his native Japan.

Last chance...

TIMBERLAKE Wertenbaker's *Three Birds Alighting On A Field* is an absolute corker which exposes the luxuries of the international art scene. Harriet Walter leads a splendid cast in this shrewd and witty play. The extended run ends at the Royal Court Theatre (071-730 1745) on Saturday.

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and depressing reminder of hard times. The change came in the mid-1960s, when the blues revival amongst white rock musicians generated new interest in the pioneers.

Riley B. King was born on a Mississippi plantation in 1925 and spent his youth working as a labourer. In 1946 he set off for Memphis to find work as a musician, but after meeting with little success he returned home. In 1948 he tried again, and this time was given a ten-minute slot on a black music radio station. Part of his brief was to sing a jingle for a health tonic called Pepticon. He soon became known as "The Partison Boy", which evolved into "Beale Street Blues Boy", then "Blues Boy King", and finally the pithier B.B. King.

He returns to Mississippi each year for a weekend of free concerts. During the visit he catches up with childhood friends; some of them, he says, still work on the same plantation. He also gives frequent concerts in prisons. With such a schedule he spends little time at home in Las Vegas. When he does have a day or two to himself, his staff never know where to find him.

"When I want to be on my own, I tell them I'm going to Hawaii. They know what that means: it means they won't know where to find me."

While he has made some excellent studio albums in his time, the stage is where he is at his most commanding. Many die-hard fans argue that his finest moment came on *Live At The Regal*, recorded in Chicago in 1964. In later years there were various attempts to re-package him for the mainstream market. Though purists were usually unimpressed, albums such as *Midnight Believer* – a collaboration with Will Jennings and Joe Sample – broadened the repertoire without undue compromises. King is re-united with Jennings and Sample on his new release, *There Is Always One More Time*. It is, he thinks,

the best album he has ever recorded.

His voice and his ever-present guitar, Lucille, sound as formidable as ever. Critics

have pointed out that Lucille's solos echo the human voice.

Charles Sawyer, King's biographer, went further, reminding readers that, as a boy, King suffered from a stammer.

"His melodic statements juxtapose long, plaintive notes with bursts of eighth notes, followed by long silences. The effect is like speech, when we hem and haw in frustration,

words... All in all his playing is a supreme effort at clarity, marked by agonising doubts that he will succeed to make himself understood."

Self-doubt remains a component of King's personality. People, he says, always assume that he knows far more about music than he actually does. One of the remaining ambitions of this gracious and eloquent man, apart from recording an album of gospel tunes, is to find time to study music formally with a private tutor, or perhaps at a university.

"Really, I feel I'm pretty lucky. I was talking with James Moody and some of the guys just now about the tunes they were playing in '46 and '47. And I was telling them that in '47 I'd just stopped ploughing. I left the plantation because I wanted to improve my life and do more for my family. I wasn't even sure that I wanted to be a musician. But since then, it's happened, and here I am."

• B.B. King performs at the Albert Hall (071-589 3203) on Monday at 7.30pm.

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Liz Smith reports from Paris, where the lingerie look is being shown in sheer fabrics and as lacy accessories to a longer silhouette

DENZIL MACNEILANCE

The long and the short and the tulle

Will Paris fashion survive the slump? The answer is yes, both in terms of the recession, as well as the slithering downward dip in hemlines that is being seen at the shows this week. The slowing of sales of clothes has provided Paris's businesslike designers with the opportunity to increase their market share at the expense of weaker rivals elsewhere.

The Parisians themselves show no sign of a fashion recession and the branché shops in the fashionable streets around Saint Germain are crammed with women in search of the curvy jackets and stretchy dogtooth Lycra (short) skirts that are this winter's uniform. Paris's hottest new boutique is the one that was opened two weeks ago on the avenue Montaigne by Inès de la Fressange, the former Chanel model.

And the collapse of the hemline? The longer skirts that merely veil the legs in a flutter of chiffon, shown by Karl Lagerfeld in his own collection, are pretty insubstantial evidence of a trend downwards. In the Chanel show, Mr Lagerfeld hobbled his models with long, skinny skirts worn with ankle socks and golfing shoes or teeteringly high cork platform sandals. He carved the CC logo into tree trunks in his wooden *Midsummer Night's Dream* mock-up, but strayed too far into the fashion woods by dispensing with Chanel's signature gold buttons. The white shirts and collar and cuff detailing that has cropped up in many collections (including the Lagerfeld line and Gaultier) reappeared at Chanel, with shirts knotted over chiffon evening dresses and layered between T-shirt and jacket. Black and white braided Chanel jackets, worn with long, flounced ballerina skirts and the classic suit remake in towelling for the beach, were among the many successful re-runs of everybody's favourite Chanel style.

Jean-Paul Gaultier laid down Astroturf, set up a backdrop of striped awnings and, to the sound-track of *My Fair Lady*, sent out wacky hats worn with everything from back-laced corset dresses, leather jackets and pedal-pushers to pin-striped trouser suits. Every current "street" look that Gaultier has created was there, from corsets to the layering of stretchy skirts over leggings. His latest invention, a "miracle" jacket, with no fastenings but a hidden metal frame that grips the waist looks too uncomfortable to become fashionable.

Christian Lacroix closed the style gap between his haute couture and ready-to-wear lines, encrusting bright jackets with lace or embroidering just the cuffs. Regatta-striped blazers and gingham-checked cotton piqué jackets are worn with high-waisted white trousers and a peaked cap.

Valentino's collection of long, pleated silk skirts in spots, flowers and ribbon prints was the prettiest



Layered in lace: Valentino's ribbon-printed silk top with lace skirt and overskirt, carried by the model

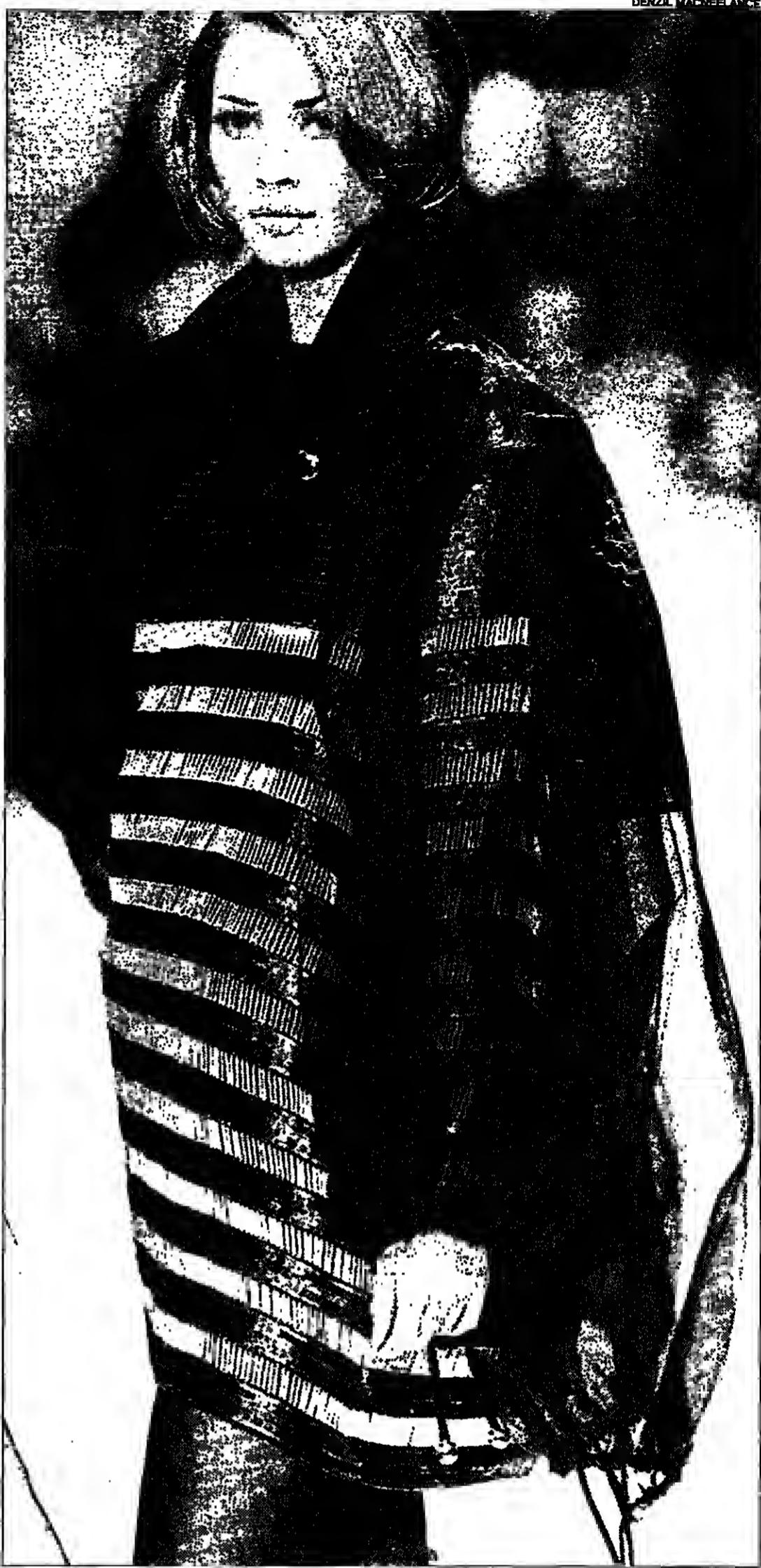
and the most wearable of all. He gave the models the opportunity to do an elegant strip tease, unbuttoning the skirts to provide more than a glimpse of matching lace-banded shorts and lingerie dresses. Picasso inspired Valentino's white graphic shapes applied to blue and white linen dresses, and jackets over white trousers. Matisse provided Givenchy's splashy, colourful prints to a collection that looked like a reprise of many of the classics shown in the exhibition, which opened at the Palais Galleria last night, celebrating his 40 years in fashion.

Kenzo has invented the tailored balconet suit, at the front of an otherwise normal double-breasted jacket. Claude Montana, however, captured a lighter mood in a superb collection of sculpted dipping skirts, narrow trousers, blaz-

ers — even trenchcoats — in gossamer organza, chiffon and gazar, in delicious shades of Indian pink, sharp yellow and clear as well as navy blue.

Such lightweight fashion ideas may set the tone for a season but do not add up to a new outfit for most women, as designers here know. The look is held together by a jacket, either long and close-fitting or a cropped bolero.

In collection after collection sarongs, cut to swoop asymmetrically from short to long and skinny long skirts slit to the thigh, or unbuttoning to reveal shorts or a brief band of silk and lace, offer women the option of sticking to a neat, short line, while experimenting with a longer length.



Sheer charm: Claude Montana's bugle bead and sequin dress, with a tulle and organza drawstring jacket

Bound to win the Booker

How six designer bookbinders have interpreted the Booker Prize shortlist

This evening, six authors in search of the worthy and the shiny to hear which of them has emerged triumphant. On television, we see the winner accept a cheque for £20,000.

What may not be popularly known is that the winner — to common with the five runners up — also receives a hand-bound copy of his or her novel. In past years, this "consolation" prize has been viewed at rather less than consoling, but this year for the first time the bindings will be works of art created by six members of Designer Bookbinders — the principal society in Britain devoted to the craft of hand bookbinding.



Work of art: Lou Smith shows William Trevor's green, goatskin-covered copy of *Two Lives*

These "designer bindings" are as different from the standard article as Brightoo Pavilion is from a Portakabin. For example, Philip Smith's binding for Timothy Mo's *The Redundancy of Courage* (based on the guerrilla war in East Timor) is covered in bright red ostrich skin, with swirls of pucker, while the upper one-sixth is light blue with a drift of tiny white semi-circles over an abstract landscape; a brown out-pouring of what is intended to be effluent courses down the spine. The pages of the text have been occasionally over-printed with "blood splashes" while a simulated bullet hole passes through the book, an actual bullet projecting through the front cover.

Designer binders are led by the content of the book, whereas in commercial publishing it is not unusual for the

designer of the dust-wrapper never to have so much as glanced at the text. James Brockman has approached Roddy Doyle's rude, comical and seedy novel *The Van* in a typically vigorous manner: the painted calf binding is overlaid with miniature sculptures of salvaged van parts in plastic and rusting metal, and the flyleaves are spattered with simulated greasy breakfast stains. The edges of the book? Patterned with tyre tread?

Such tour-de-force are all the more remarkable for having been completed within so short a time — unbound sheets of the novels were delivered to each of the binders on September 25, the day after the announcement of the shortlist. Lou Smith, an American binder, considers herself fortunate "because none of us knew which book we would receive, and of the four new novels I had read, only William Trevor's *Reading Turgenev* [one of two novellas in *Two Lives*] was shortlisted —

and that is the title I was given". During 30 years as a professional bookbinder, Ms Smith has produced more than 200 "designer bindings", but has never before had to read, poeder, design and bind a book in less than a month. "The actual binding took 15 working days" there was hardly time to eat." The result is a dark green goatskin to complement the book's semi-rural setting, with vertical panels in shades of green, blue and grey, the back cover being the reverse of the front.

Many people imagine that binding a book is simply decorating the cover of an existing trade edition; in reality, each signature — or section — must be hand-sewn, and the boards (hard covers) must be made up. Angela James prepared the boards in advance of the shortlist announcement, but left any thought of design until Bo Oki's *The Famished Road* was in her hands. She

has treated this atmospheric book about a Nigerian child in bands of black Nigerian goatskin fading to grey, and dark yellow goatskin bleached to white; enlivened by strips of orange and two raised bands on the spine covered in turquoise sheepskin. Jeff Clements, responsible for *Such A Long Journey*, Robin Hood's first novel, has gone for Morocco leather in black, red-brown and light blue, a single grey line traversing the back cover from head to tail, symbolising an entanglement between father and son central to the narrative. For *Time's Arrow*, by Martin Amis, Jenni Grey incorporates vellum, leather, rosewood and brass in clear geometric shapes, a triangular clasp forming an arrowhead.

Never mind which author triumphs tonight in the eyes of Designer Bookbinders, each title is bound to be a winner.

JOSEPH CONNOLLY

Diary, page 15

There'll only be two Banks in fashion this winter.
(Jeff's the other one.)

If you'd like a leaflet to apply for tickets to the BBC's Clothes Show Live at the NEC, 7-12 December, call in at any branch of Lloyds Bank, or ring the ticket hotline on 021 780 4133.

Alternatively, you can watch Jeff Banks host a special live edition of The Clothes Show programme on 8th December.

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Only hatred in common

Suspicion of the Middle East talks is uniting all parties, says Richard Beeston

Until this week Bob Lang and Najib Farraj would have scoffed at the idea that they had much in common. True, both men live just three miles apart, separated only by the terraced Judean hills south of Bethlehem, and both are professionals aged 33. But any suggestion that they might be neighbours infers a kinship which ignores the enormous political, social and religious chasm which divides their lives and their rival communities.

Mr Lang, who emigrated to Israel from a prosperous Jewish American family in New Jersey is a prominent figure in the settlers' movement, whose objective is to colonise and annex the territories occupied by Israel after the 1967 six-day war. Their goal is to create a greater Israel, incorporating the ancient Biblical lands of Judea and Samaria, known today as the West Bank. Mr Lang lives with his wife and young son in the model Jewish settlement of Efrat, which, were it not for the armed guards at the gate and the protective metal grilles over the car windscreen, could be mistaken for a middle class suburb in California.

Mr Farraj, on the other hand, enjoys so much amenity in his cinder block home at the Deheishe refugee camp just down the road, which compares unfavourably with many of South Africa's grimmest townships. A visitor might mistake the squall homes and unpaved streets for a prison because they lie in the shadow of a 20 ft high corrugated iron and metal fence erected by the Israeli authorities to prevent stone throwing, in addition to a turnstile gate, which helps the nearby army post control access to the camp.

Mr Farraj, a local newspaper journalist, was born into the midst of conflict and his life story is of a constant, losing battle against Israeli authority. With the creation of the state of Israel in 1948 his parents lost their home and became refugees, first under Jordanian rule, then under Israeli. At the last count he had been arrested 20 times by the army for alleged involvement in helping to organise the *intifada*. He denies he is a leading activist, but gladly admits that he is prepared to resist indefinitely Israeli occupation of territory he believes should be an independent Palestinian state.

On the face of it, in spite of their rival claims to the same piece of land, both settler and refugee might reasonably hold out some hope that the talks planned for next week in Madrid could bring peace. The prospect of ending one of the last central conflicts of the post-war era, which has already sparked four major regional wars, should at least have been met with some encouraging response from the very people it is designed to help. The talks, however unpromising, offer hope of reconciling a problem that has



Mr Baker: credibility gap

...and moreover
CRAIG BROWN

Just as there are odd words which, once taken on board, have a bizarre habit of recurring, so it is with people. I remember precisely where I was when I first heard the name Beverley Nichols. It was the summer of 1977, and I was staying with friends in Venice. We were having a drink at a pavement cafe when his name was mentioned. "Who?" I asked. "You've never heard of Beverley Nichols?" For the next few minutes, they filled me in on who he was, some arguing that he was alive, others that he was dead.

Half an hour later, the most curious thing happened. From out of nowhere, a beggar appeared, croaking his way through a song. In one hand he held a cap, in the other a grubby page of sheet music. He sang with that peculiar combination of vigour and atrociousness that encourages cash payment. As we dug shallow into our pockets, one of our party noticed the title on the top of the music. It was *Dancing with the Daffodils* (1938), and its composer was Beverley Nichols.

Sure enough, a week or two after this incident, his name cropped up once more. Someone said that Beverley Nichols was a dandy. Mishearing, I thought they were linking him with the actress Dandy Nichols. "So Beverley and Dandy Nichols were married," I asked, to much guffawing.

Ever since then, his name has cropped up with bizarre regular-

Janet Daley bemoans the passing of the cheap and cheerful Bohemian life in the capital

Whatever happened to the sort of life I used to lead? The perennial cry of the middle-aged perhaps, but I think I have a case based on more than nostalgia. It may come as a surprise to those under 40 but there was a time when you could live cheerfully in London, and entertain yourself to a high standard, without being rich.

When I arrived in London in 1965, I was able to rent a bedsitter in Earl's Court for three guineas a week (that's £3.15p to those of you born after decimalisation) which gave me a sink, a gas ring, a bathroom on the landing and lots of Antipodean neighbours. Earnings of about £14 a week by doing a few lectures, I had no difficulty paying for rent, restaurant meals and a great many theatre and concert tickets. Transport was so cheap and reliable that I never considered owning a car.

A bit later, when I was an aspiring writer and my boyfriend was a postgraduate art student, we found a succession of cheap rented flats from Notting Hill to Tottenham Court Road, which we shared with only one or two other people. When we married in 1967 with scarcely £20 between us and co

London grows grim

regular income, we were able to get an affordable flat by ourselves with little difficulty.

Because we both had creative ambitions, we chose not to get full-time jobs but to piece together a small income on which we could manage. It was perfectly feasible to be unmortgaged and without a car and to feel that you were at the heart of what London was about.

Notting Hill and Camden Town are still full of young people who look as if they aspire to *la vie bohème* but they seem, from my own impressionistic research, to fall into two categories: there are the drug trade basket cases who either collect benefits or survive on street culture, and there are the children of the rich who will play for a few years at being impoverished.

Both of these lifestyles seem to me artificial (which is to say supported by other people, either parents or the state). They are out of date existences in the way that

ours was before it was swept away in the early 1970s.

A number of events combined to destroy London as a centre for the intellectual poor. The first was the Labour government's Rent Act, which effectively eliminated private rented accommodation at reasonable prices. The second was the property boom of 1970-71. In combination, they meant that it was, quite suddenly, impossible to live in London on a low and especially an irregular income.

If you were of the poor working class, your significance as part of a political power base was valuable enough to set in motion a rescue programme of social service ministrations. The Labour party, in its Trotskyist local government incarnation, set about making the "inner city" its own field.

But if you wanted to lead an independent, self-supporting life with little interest in material aggrandisement but a lot of high-brow leisure, you were finished. As London became a place where

only the indigenous wealthy or the naive tourist amused himself, all of the facilities that had sustained our milieu evaporated. Cheap restaurants and working men's "cafs" were undermined by high rates, ludicrous property values and the fact that their custom was disappearing. Concert and theatre tickets gave themselves up to the tourist and "yuppie" markets. Secondhand bookshops expired when the leases came up at inflated prices on their shop sites and their rates went through the roof to help pay for all those social services on the council estates.

A regional survey out this week puts the southeast at the bottom of its "quality of life" index by comparing cost of living with pay scales. The price of living in London is now, it suggests, quite out of line with the earnings of the people who live there. Of course, it is absurd to measure the quality of people's lives strictly in terms of income and expenditure (as evi-

ently Dr Johnson might insist that I am simply tired of life, but to me it seems more that London no longer has space for the life I used to live.

A Hungarian rhapsody

Woodrow Wyatt
experiences the
excitement of a
free Budapest

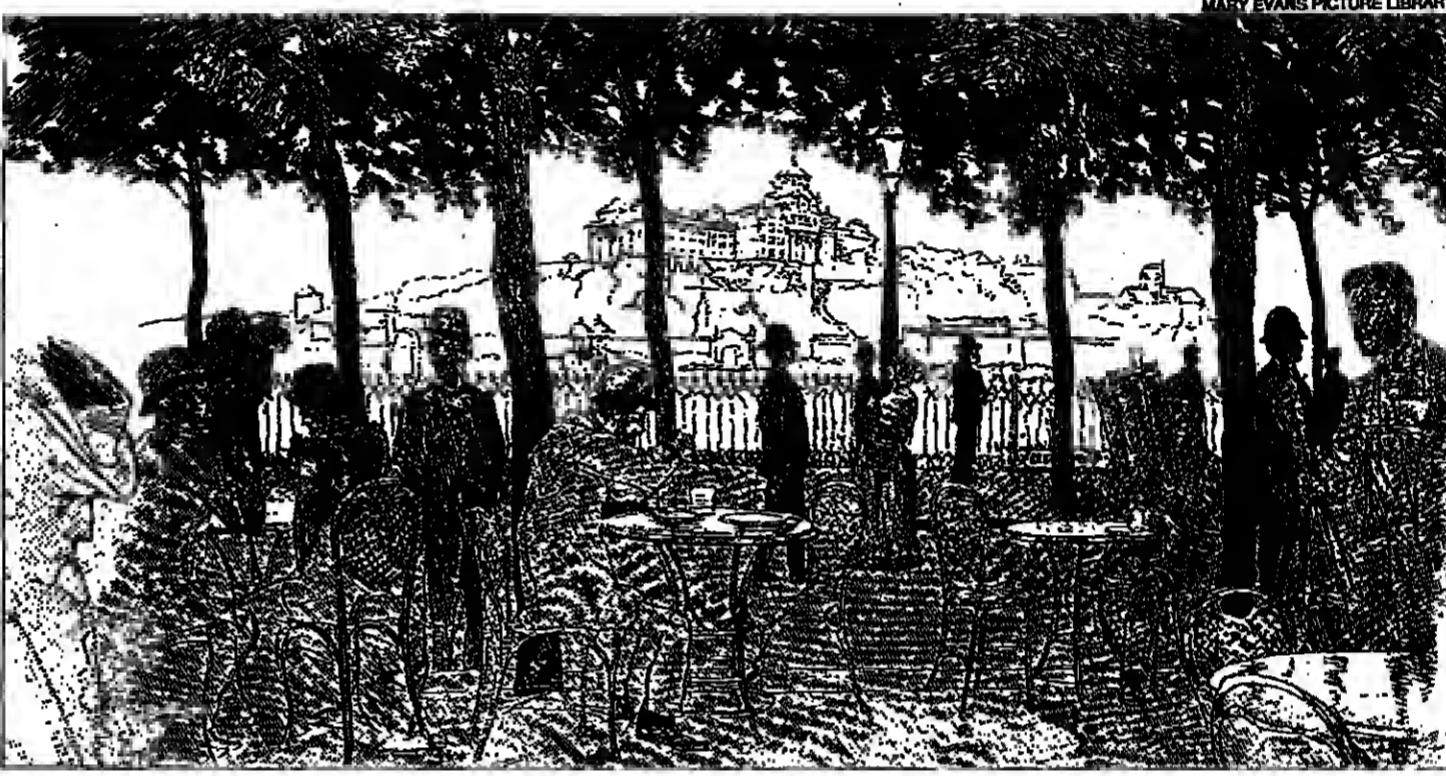
In my five-day stay in Budapest I knew I was at the rebirth of a great nation. Smartened-up splendid old buildings, floodlit both sides of the Danube, showed Budapest has reclaimed the title of the Paris of central Europe. So did the verve of the Hungarians, revelling in their new freedoms.

Dr Csaba Gelenyi, aged 35, at the Hungarian State Property Agency, showed me his green telephone set with two rows of switches. To call internally, locally, outside Budapest or internationally he depends on this ancient, time-wasting contraption. He is at the sharp end of privatising the commerce and industry the communists let decay. Telecommunications is a prime candidate for disposal and foreign telephone companies are interested.

The State Property Agency has a

tiny staff of 130. Hungary is in a lorry. Ninety days are allotted from the first examination of proposals to the awarding of a contract. This includes valuing the assets (which may be of minus worth) without Western style balance sheets. Total buyouts by foreign investors, who get a five per cent of its monopoly would cease to be protected from busting new Hungarian entrepreneurs. Ikarus makes good, solid buses which were sold abroad at a loss for hard currency and to the Soviet Union for oil. On privatisation, no longer subsidised, Ikarus nearly collapsed until the Russians, who badly cannot see the value of compromise.

Swedish Electrolux bought the refrigerator manufacturer; the government chocolate making went to Swiss Nestlé; the government-owned pharmaceuticals company went to the French company Sanofi. British American Tobacco (BAT) has bought 100 per cent of the state monopoly in all tobacco and cigarette production, unhampered by the anti-smoking fanatics who plague us. Altogether, privately-owned businesses, large and small, now comprise 30 per cent of the gross national product. The chief resistance is from the old communist-installed management,



Paris of central Europe: the old, confident Budapest is returning as communism becomes a memory and Hungarians adopt the enterprise culture

who rightly fear death to their cosy, lazy, subsidised, loss-making activities.

There have been hitches. Ibusz, the state travel agency, was floated on Budapest's infant stock exchange and its shares were soon at a high premium above the issue price. They now stand below it. Ibusz overextended itself, forgetting its monopoly would cease to be protected from busting new Hungarian entrepreneurs. Ikarus makes good, solid buses which were sold abroad at a loss for hard currency and to the Soviet Union for oil. On privatisation, no longer subsidised, Ikarus nearly collapsed until the Russians, who badly cannot see the value of compromise.

The government is criticised for going too slow in shedding run down assets but it must retain temporarily such items as outdated steel plants and coal mines, which nobody would buy, because the employment of whole towns and districts rests on them. Much hope of quick returns centres on

new businesses being created by the energetic young not infected by slothful communist ways.

VAT is 25 per cent and inflation has only now steadied at 35 per cent. Businesses must add some 50 per cent to their wage bills to pay for social security. So everyone cuts their taxes, either by evasion or by unrecorded second jobs or both.

As taxation is very recent, there is, luckily, no sophisticated machinery for collecting it. The government is helpless as under its nose a thriving black economy emerges with a real chance of making Hungary advance on Italian lines.

Alarmingly, the old communist trade union bosses still control three million trade union members; only a handful choose other unions. There are no rules on strike ballots and no supervision of union elections. As Mrs Thatcher realised, the law must tame unruly unions if solid

progress is not to be thwarted. This has not yet occurred to the Hungarian government. Fortunately, there are six main parties in parliament. The largest, Democratic Forum, has made a coalition with the cranky Independent Smallholders Party and the Christian Democrats in order to govern therefore the government is weak from internal quarrels. Consequently, governments will be unable to prevent the people doing what they think best for themselves any more than Italian governments can — and never mind the morals. Because the black economy will produce far more wealth than the official, true morality is on its side.

Ostensibly, the great majority still employed by state concerns are worse off because of the inability of the government to raise their wages to match inflation. Actually, even now, with the multitude of unrecorded second jobs they are not doing badly. From old, cheap cars produced by the erstwhile communist coun-

tries to the masses of Mercedes smuggled in without tax, the roads in Budapest and in the country are thronged with motors.

Hungarians point out to you at the airport the numerous aircraft owned by the new rich. There is more admiration than envy for them, plus an ardent ambition among the young to catch up. A former waiter sold out his one-hour film developing business, Fotex, so successfully that he is now developing a 37-acre complex of houses for diplomats. Laura Kitti, the clothes designer, offers quality wares, fashionable by any standards and at bargain prices, and is building herself a fine new country house.

By hook and by crook ingenious, hard-working Hungarians will make their country richer than the rest of the old communist empire but it will be very rough going for many, particularly the older, on the way. Hungarians tend to be wildly optimistic or deeply pessimistic; the former are more likely to be right.

Bookered for dinner

NICHOLAS MOSLEY is to attend tonight's award ceremony for the Booker prize, despite his earlier decision to resign as a judge.

Mosley vowed to boycott the black tie event at Guildhall, London, as part of his protest last month at the exclusion from the shortlist of the Alan Massie novel, *The Sins of the Fathers*.

But Mosley, who became embroiled in an unseemly row with Booker over whether he should be paid his £2,500 fee, had a change of heart yesterday. He telephoned Martyn Goff, the administrator of the Booker prize, to see if he was still welcome.

Mosley says: "I had thought it would be like a ghost turning up at the party. But people have been so nice about it all. The Booker people seemed to intimate that they would like it if I turned up. It seemed churlish not to."

Richard Bostock's biography of Oberst Lancaster, Nichols appears on page 53 as the possessor of "a toy rabbit called Cuthbert" but he rates no further mention. In Paul Fussell's *Abroad*, he is actually quoted ("I shall never forget my first sight of the Queen of Romania") though only for a laugh. Beverley Nichols confided to his diary in 1956 that he had "a shrewd idea" he would be remembered in a hundred years. My mass of encounters with him lends me a shrewd idea he might be right, though perhaps not in quite the way he would have expected.

Swordbearer, a new biography by Stewart Lamont of John Knox, the Scottish Calvinist, the early John Major, who taught in Paris from 1525 to 1531 before returning to Scotland, was a strong influence on Knox. Major, says Lamont, "belonged to the old world of the medieval schoolmen who argued in propositions which were proved in logical manner". The style sounds a little dour — dare one say even grey — but distinctly familiar. More to the point, Major's great work dealt with "the legitimate rights of citizens against rulers", although he "had little appetite for revolution".

Alarming, the old communist

progress is not to be thwarted. This has not yet occurred to the Hungarian government. Fortunately, there are six main parties in parliament. The largest, Democratic Forum, has made a coalition with the cranky Independent Smallholders Party and the Christian Democrats in order to govern therefore the government is weak from internal quarrels. Consequently, governments will be unable to prevent the people doing what they think best for themselves any more than Italian governments can — and never mind the morals. Because the black economy will produce far more wealth than the official, true morality is on its side.

MPs return to their constituencies today until the Queen's speech at the end of the month, will be reunited with the leftovers when they come back. "They will be turned into apple crumbles and put in the freezer," says a catering department spokesman.

• The BBC singers could not understand the silence after their rendition of "Warsaw, You're the Most Beautiful City in the World", as a Warsaw concert. No one had told them that the piece was composed in the days of Stalin, and was a favourite of Polish communists.

Crunch for MPs

IF the saying "an apple a day keeps the doctor away" is true, MPs should be healthy for a week. Almost one ton of English apples was devoured at the Commons yesterday as the MPs' contribution to National Apple Day with gusto and glee.

A wide selection of the 6,000

varieties of English apple were

served up in every conceivable

way in Parliament's 24 bars, res-

taurants and cafeterias. Stuffed

apples, apple turnovers, apple pie

and cream, roast pork and apple

sauce and apple paté were among

the most popular dishes.

Stage stuck

WHILE the lights may be going down at Covent Garden, the English National Opera is spreading its wings. The company has flown in to rescue the Bavarian State Opera in Munich, which was left with a hole in its Christmas season after faulty hydraulic stage machinery scuppered Sir Peter Hall's production of *Peter Grimes*.

Peter Jonas, the ENO's general director, is the forthcoming "intendant" of the Bavarian State Opera — he starts in 1993 — and was aware of his future employer's problem. The ENO's production of *Peter Grimes*, premiered in April this year, does not require hydraulics. Jonas offered to lend it and the Bavarians accepted gratefully. "It's very good news for the ENO," says a spokeswoman. "The production is on hire so it should help towards the financial strain."

SO John Major really is the originator of the citizen's charter after all. When the prime minister lauded his "big idea" this summer, opponents were swift to accuse Major of stealing their clothes. Neil Kinnock claimed Labour thought of it first; Paddy Ashdown was adamant that rights for citizens was long-standing Liberal Democrat policy.

Now it can be told. Major was ahead of all of them — by more than 500 years. According to The

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PENSION PRIORITIES

There are two classes of pensioner. The first comprises elderly people who are realising the dream of a comfortable retirement. They enjoy an occupational or state earnings-related pension scheme. They own a house, usually mortgage-free and invariably worth far more than they paid for it. Their shares have gone up. Their building society accounts are paying positive real rates of interest, which have not been so high for so long since the late 19th century. Low inflation is now also protecting their savings. As the infirmity of extreme old age creeps on, they will be able to afford private residential care and nursing.

Those in the second class are far from comfortable. They were never in the kind of job that attracted a pension. They were not eligible for Serps. They did not, perhaps could not, save. They do not own their home. Wider social change, in particular the mobility that often separates generations, renders them dependent. In old age, they are thrown back entirely on state benefits.

That benefit has been limited this past decade. Margaret Thatcher changed the law so the basic pension rose only in line with prices, not (as under Labour) in line with whichever rose faster, prices or earnings. Yesterday, Tony Newton, the social services secretary, announced that pensions would rise by only 4.1 per cent in April. This is strictly in line with prices, but only because the falling interest has kept headline inflation down. For most pensioners, prices are rising faster than 4.1 per cent but they cannot complain too loudly. April 1991's 10.9 per cent increase in pensions outstripped the underlying rise in prices. The Exchequer is clawing back in this increase what it was forced to concede in the last.

Mr Newton went some way to recognise the two separate classes of pensioner. He made special provision for income support to disabled pensioners over 80, and to

pensioners in residential care. Income support, unlike general pension increases, targets those most in need. By comparison with the cost of the general increase, these measures are small beer, but they are a pointer in the right direction.

A pointer in the wrong direction came from Labour's Michael Meacher. He wants more for everyone and now. Poor pensioners and rich pensioners alike would benefit from the party's pledge to raise pensions, by £5 a week for the single pensioner and £8 for a couple. Poor pensioners and rich pensioners alike would benefit from its pledge to raise future pensions in line with whichever rises faster of earnings and prices. The very poorest could even be worse off, according to pensions experts. And the poor taxpayer will pay along with the rich, up to £25 billion more over 30 years.

Mr Meacher shares with Robin Cook with the health portfolio an inability to adhere to the discipline of his shadow Chancellor, John Smith, in matters of spending pledges. His is the policy of tax more, spend more, no matter who gains, and why worry who loses. Whoever wins the general election will have to think seriously about pensions. Does the flat rate pension make any sense? Should it be means-tested? Should expensive fiscal encouragement still be given to private pensions, or state subsidy to Serps?

Greater discrimination needs to be shown to pensioners in need, without discouraging saving for retirement. More generally, a balance needs to be struck between care for the elderly in cash, through the pension, and in kind, through communal services. Since Sir Norman Fowler's great review of 1985, the necessary debate about the elderly has been stuck in an exhausted coma. The priority must be to direct limited cash to those most in need, and to improve services for those too infirm to look after themselves.

TURKEY LEANS WEST

Turkey's progress in democratic maturity is about to be put to the test. The third general election since the military coup of 1980 has produced an inconclusive result, heralding a period of coalition politics. Nato, of which Turkey is an important member, and the European Community, which Turkey implausibly applied to join in 1987, are both interested in the outcome. The rise of Muslim fundamentalism does not yet threaten Turkey's alignment with the West, but it might presage a return to the instability of the 1970s. That could prompt yet another coup. The Turkish electorate has told the politicians to bury their differences. If they squabble, the army may bury the politicians.

There are now four big parties, each with between 17 and 27 per cent of the vote: hardly a recipe for strong government. The new prime minister, Suleyman Demirel, has achieved his ambition of ending the dominance of President Turgut Ozal by humiliating the Motherland party, the political vehicle which Mr Ozal created for himself while the army banned his rivals (including Mr Demirel) from politics. Mr Demirel had to watch Mr Ozal's rise under the junta, first in 1983 to the premiership, then in 1989 to the presidency after General Evren resigned this nominally apolitical job.

Yet the ideology of Mr Demirel's True Path party — pro-market, pro-Western, pro-nationalist — differs little from that of the Motherland government of the outgoing prime minister, Mesut Yilmaz, who is also 23 years younger than his successor. The two would be ideal coalition partners, but for the antagonism between Mr Demirel and President Ozal. Despite the former's threats to impeach him, Mr Ozal looks impregnable for the last five years of his term.

During this colourful, murderous and abusive election campaign, the opposition parties did little more than to denounce presidential nepotism while simultaneously offering bribes themselves — even free circumcision for the poor. The joker in the

pack is the Islamic fundamentalist Welfare party. Though the other parties lay claim to the secularising legacy of Kemal Ataturk, Welfare has forced its two right-wing rivals to compete for the Muslim vote.

Mr Demirel, an old-timer of 67, is unlikely to have devised new solutions. The vote for him was partly a protest against the heirs of the junta, partly a vote for competence. Motherland, despite its conservative rhetoric, had pursued inflationary policies with disastrous consequences for all classes. The Social Democrat Populists of Erdal Inonu were judged even less reliable on this score, but they may well become Mr Demirel's junior partner in a coalition.

A peaceful change of government is an achievement for a country whose form of government has lurched from weak coalitions to military强人 ever since Ataturk. If Mr Demirel can build a broadly based administration, Turkey's Western course should continue. That course has transformed the country's economic prospects, even if inflation has rarely dipped below 50 per cent. Despite the spectacular fall of Asil Nadir, Turkish business is booming: growth last year was 9 per cent. With a population approaching 60 million, Mr Demirel must maintain this momentum.

Whatever the complexion of the coalition that emerges from this week's post-electoral horse-trading, the new government has to decide whether Turkey is a European state sloughing off its Asiatic past, or the westernmost outpost of the emergent Turkic nations of central Asia. Looking west is no longer the only option for Turkey. The Gulf war was a reminder of Turkey's strategic value to the West, a value that remains undiminished by the defeat of Iraq and the weakening of the Soviet empire. Ankara has been a loyal friend. In order to reassure allies in Nato and would-be partners in the EC, the Demirel government should move quickly to reinforce the Western course that has brought Turkey prosperity and security.

PERILS OF PIMLICOING

The 400 citizens of Cleeve Prior near Evesham have succumbed to what Lord Donaldson, the Master of the Rolls, once called the "Pimlico syndrome". He applied the term to "the Republic of Ciskei", a puppet statelet carved out by South Africa but recognised by nobody else. Likewise the residents of Cleeve Prior, a pretty Midlands village, are today declaring their independence of Whitchurch and Westminster and indeed of Wychavon and Worcester. Passports will henceforth be demanded of visitors. A national flag has been designed. It is, in short, a jolly jape in a fine tradition of nonsense, along with crossing the English Channel in a bath tub or streaking at Lords.

It may be timely to remind Cleeve Prior, however, what happened to the last parcel of England which Pimlico-syndromed itself out of the Queen's realm. Not the actual Pimlico, for that whimsical insurrection was in 1949, and existed only as a filmic fantasy, *Passport to Pimlico*, which anyway was shot in Lambeth, on the other side of the Thames.

The dire warning to Cleeve Prior is the Isle of Dogs in East London. It did a "Pimlico" in 1971, unilaterally proclaiming independence under "President" Ted Johns, a community activist. The island's UDI was a demand for something to happen before it went all the rest of the way to the dogs. And the stunt paid off a thousandfold. Canary Wharf, the largest something or other in Europe, duly soared into the sky. The Docklands Light Railway, the Limehouse Tunnel, *The Daily Telegraph*, all arrived panting on the Isle of Dogs, as did yuppies, double yellow lines, a building site as far as

the horizon in every direction, and billions upon billions of pounds of public and private money. Truly did the Isle's well-meant little Pimlico stunt turn into a sorcerer's apprentice of excess.

Admittedly Cleeve Prior's stunt is a Nimby ("Not in my back yard") kind of protest, whereas the sad and salutary tale above was a case of too much Pimby: "Please in my back yard". The villagers say they already have too many gypsies, something like 100 of them in caravans, and they oppose the intention of Wychavon district council to build a permanent gypsy caravan site. The gypsies are attracted by seasonal work in the market gardens of the Vale of Evesham; and the local authority has a legal duty to provide a proper site for them to live on. "Not that we dislike gypsies", say the Cleeve Priorites. "It's just that we think they should live somewhere else."

The Pimlico syndrome brings together the English liking for municipal whimsy and the "if only" of waking up to find oneself somebody else. *Passport to Pimlico* was an early Ealing comedy, which told how a parish of working-class London suddenly found itself belonging to the Duke of Burgundy when a long forgotten document came to light. As the Isle of Dogs experiment showed, this is strong magic, not to be trifled with. The people of Cleeve Prior should brace against the possible discovery that they are all the foundlings of gypsies, all true-blooded Romanies themselves. So when, in answer to the Pimlico-syndrome spell, the village is declared gypsy-free, none of its citizens will be able to live in it.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 071-782 5000

Symptoms and remedies for health service 'malaise'

From Professor Emeritus

Sir Douglas Black

Sir, Privatisation (real or alleged), the status of trust hospitals and fund-holding by family doctors are important matters, but they are disagreeable symptoms and not the root cause of the malaise in the health service.

In responding to the financial strains imposed by adverse national demography and the (laudable) increase in what is medically possible, a remedy has been sought in increasing managerial power at the expense of the influence of doctors and nurses. Petty economies can no doubt be achieved, but only at some risk to the professional ethos which has helped to give us a comprehensive service at perhaps a third of the individual cost to citizens of the USA, many of whom are nevertheless devoid of health cover.

That we are now adopting some of their economic and managerial devices, at a time when they themselves are realising that "socialised medicine" and "a national service" are not synonymous, indicates our own confusion between what is needed to run a business and what to provide.

A contractual system is as inappropriate to a health service as it is to medical research and the sooner we can scrap it the better, with its army of accountants and behind them endless opportunities for litigation.

The health of a people depends predominantly on what is "even" genetically, socially and morally, but that is no excuse for failing to do what is possible for those who fall by the wayside, often through no fault of their own.

When the system fails

From Dr A. C. Lamont

Sir, The combination of the citizen's charter and clinical budgeting in NHS hospitals brings with it a completely new and complex set of problems.

Previously, in our radiology department, ultrasound and fluoroscopy patients were block-booked for the beginning of a session. While this was time-efficient for the department, patients often had to wait quite a long time to be seen for their investigation.

We now have an appointment system, which is more convenient for patients and minimises waiting times. It is, however, not unusual for patients to fail to turn up for appointments. In a recent children's ultrasound session with 12 bookings, only one parent phoned to cancel (one hour before she was due); a further five just failed to attend.

Considerable expense is incurred by a department when staff and equipment stand idle. In the brave new NHS, where funding follows the patient, will fund-holding GPs and clinicians be prepared to under-

achieve. Such a positive contribution needs, however, to be accompanied by increases in public expenditure on housing, on the progressive removal of urban squalor, on the relief of abject poverty, on the restoration of economic and financial policies aimed at full employment, on education and the delivery of support of all sporting activities.

May I therefore, as the sole survivor (albeit a PPS) of the political team responsible for the introduction of the NHS in 1948, be permitted to say that the service itself, with subsequent overwhelming public support, was devised on the basis of the principles and aims I have ventured to outline above.

Yours etc,
DOUGLAS BLACK,
The Old Forge, Duchess Close,
Whitchurch-on-Thames,
Reading, Berkshire.

October 18.

From Lord Bruce of Donington

Sir, Professor de Bono's confident assertion (October 10) that "it is obvious that no country could commit itself to a totally open-ended health budget" should surely provide an opportunity for all of us to reflect on our present order of priorities, particularly in view of the fact that there are many areas of public expenditure which are "de minimis" without any cash limits being imposed on them.

It indeed should be obvious enough that the promotion of good health, bearing also in mind that there will always be unavoidable mental and physical illness outside human control, lies in the creation and encouragement of those social factors leading to a sense of positive "wellbeing" and to the discouragement of those which so frequently are the cause of the onset of illness.

Among the first category are the restoration of a positive purpose in living and the establishment of conditions in which a degree of personal serenity during significant periods of the day or week can be

achieved. Such a positive contribution needs, however, to be accompanied by increases in public expenditure on housing, on the progressive removal of urban squalor, on the relief of abject poverty, on the restoration of economic and financial policies aimed at full employment, on education and the delivery of support of all sporting activities.

The quality of service for most people is to arrive on time. Surely British Rail could make some similar rebate. It would also be a good advertisement.

Yours faithfully,
D. R. ROBERTSON,
Dover Cottage, Dennett Road,
Bembridge, Isle of Wight.

October 17.

From Dr P. D. Robertson

Sir, Professor de Bono states that we have sufficient data available to permit nationally agreed standards of care for defined common medical conditions. Is there not, also, sufficient information to allow accurate predictions of the amount of illness likely to be encountered in a health board area in a given period of time?

Publication of this information would permit health boards and the public to be accurately informed as to the funding needs of the NHS. Not that this would abolish debate, nor produce more money, but at least debate would be better informed.

Yours sincerely,
P. D. ROBERTSON
(Consultant physician),
Caithness General Hospital,
Wick, Caithness.

October 18.

From Dr Charlie Garton-Jones

Sir, In asserting that a rise in rail fares will worsen congestion in and around London, Richard Hope ("Trains take the financial strain", October 16) is taking a very short-term view.

By far the most serious road congestion occurs around London. Many parts of the Midlands, the North and Scotland are relatively untouched by the pleasures of gridlock jams and "draconian parking controls" that plague London.

The long-term solution lies in a greater spread of economic activity across the whole of Britain. Many firms have already relocated outside London, as the costs of doing business in the capital spiral, taking employees and hence commuters away from London, yet every pound of public money for British Rail shows this positive trend by distorting the real cost of congestion to companies in London.

Rail subsidies for London commuters may reduce road congestion in the short run; in the longer term they increase the problem.

Yours sincerely,
CHARLIE GARTON-JONES,
12a Broughton Place,
Edinburgh.

October 16.

From the Deputy Director of the British Road Federation

Sir, Richard Hope is right to extol the virtues of the Dutch government's policy of aiming to double rail passengers by the year 2005. He is wrong to suggest that this will prevent growth in road traffic; the Dutch are still expecting traffic to grow by at least 35 per cent over the same period.

Yours faithfully,
RICHARD DIMENT,
Deputy Director,
British Road Federation,
Pillar House,
194-202 Old Kent Road, SE1.

October 16.

Teachers' pay awards

From Mr James Coen

Sir, The proposal by the National Association of Headteachers for a performance guide for pay staff awards (report, October 15) is disturbing.

Teachers will presumably be judged by the head or deputy head with whom they work throughout the entire year. Headteachers, however, will presumably be judged by inspectors who know them only slightly; the inspectors will not hear the opinions of members of staff who have seen their head at work, day in and day out.

Is it too revolutionary to suggest that the head be presented by his staff with a plan for his work during the year, to be agreed after discussion? If this worked out satisfactorily, the head could be rewarded either with increased pay, extra training or new responsibilities.

Teachers would greatly appreciate a system which applied not only to themselves but also to their managers.

Yours faithfully,
JAMES COEN,
249 Westbourne Grove,
Westcliff-on-Sea, Essex.

October 16.

Land of the living

From Mr Barry Nicholas, FBA

Sir, Some 25 years ago a retired colleague of mine, who had been a professor in France, was living in New York, was required, when collecting his monthly pension from the French consulate, to present, like Professor Kahn (letter, October 15), a certificate that he was alive.

On one occasion he had been away for two months and, on applying for the two instalments, presented a certificate only for the more recent month. He was told that this was not sufficient: a certificate for the earlier month was also needed.

Yours faithfully,
BARRY NICHOLAS,
18a Charlbury Road, Oxford.

October 16.

Rural mayhem

From Mrs Bridget Kenward

Sir, I note that your advertisement including a dead gardener as part of a country property deal is repeated in the same issue in which Mrs Baudrand's letter drew attention to it (October 17). I conclude, therefore, that this is not an example of rural mayhem but of organic gardening.

Yours faithfully,
BRIDGET KENWARD,
Stoborough Croft,
Grange Road, Wareham, Dorset.

October 16.

Business letters, page 23



COURT CIRCULAR

BUCKINGHAM PALACE October 21: The Duke of Edinburgh, International President of WWF - World Wide Fund for Nature, attended the launch of "Caring for the Earth - A Strategy for Sustainable Living" this morning at the Queen Elizabeth II Conference Centre, Westminster.

Lieutenant Commander Malcolm Silvers, RN, was in attendance.

Mrs John Dugdale has succeeded the Lady Elton as Lady in Waiting to the Queen.

KENSINGTON PALACE October 21: The Princess of Wales attended a luncheon at Lancaster House, SW1 on the occasion of the launch of the Department of Transport's child pedestrian road safety campaign.

Mr Patrick Jephson was in attendance.

Her Royal Highness, Patron, Relaid attended the film premiere of *Rambling Rose* at the Odeon Marble Arch, 10 Edgware Road, W2.

Wing Commander David Barton, RAF was in attendance.

KENSINGTON PALACE October 21: The Duke of

Gloucester, Honorary Colonel, Royal Monmouthshire Royal Engineers (Militia), this afternoon received the Engineer in Chief (Army) (Major General John Barr).

YORK HOUSE ST JAMES'S PALACE October 21: The Duke of Kent, President of the Football Association, accompanied by The Duchess of Kent, Patron of the Spastics Society, this evening attended a dinner to commemorate the 25th Anniversary of the 1966 World Cup in aid of the Stars Organisation for Spastics at Wembley Stadium.

Miss Helen Grubb and Commander Roger Walker, RN were in attendance.

THATCHED HOUSE LODGE October 21: Princess Alexandra today visited the Isle of Man and was received by His Excellency the Lieutenant Governor, Air Marshal Sir Laurence Jones.

Her Royal Highness attended a Reception for members of charitable organisations at Government House and later opened Sulby Primary School.

The Lady Mary Mumford was in attendance.

Today's royal engagements

The Princess of Wales, as Patron of Relate, will visit the charity's offices at 13 Lower Hall Lane, Walsall, at 10.30; as Patron of Turning Point, will visit the Birmingham Drug Line, Carrs Lane, Birmingham, at 11.30; and, as Patron of the Foundation for Conductive Education, will visit the Birmingham Institute, Bell Hill, Northfield, at 12.30.

The Princess Royal, as President of the Save the Children Fund, will attend the annual meeting at the Barbican Centre at 10.30; and will attend the Royal Navy Club's Trafalgar Night dinner at Lincoln's Inn at 7.15.

Princess Margaret will open the new headquarters of the Cogent Group at Heath Farm, Meriden,

near Coventry, at 4.30; and will attend a gala performance of *The Three Penny Opera* at the Birmingham Repertory Theatre at 6.30 and open the extension to the theatre.

Princess Alice, Duchess of Gloucester, as President of the Queen's Nursing Institute, will present Long Service Badges at Brewers' Hall at 3.00.

The Duchess of Gloucester, as

President of the Royal London Society for the Blind, will open the new Job Training Centre, 105 Salusbury Road, NW6, at 2.30.

The Duchess of Kent will attend

the Metropolitan Police Constabulary 160th anniversary

service of thanksgiving and rededication in Westminster

Abbey at 6.35.

Birthdays today

Lord Birkett, 62; Colonel J.N. Blashford-Snell, explorer, 55; Mr W.P. Bowman, chairman, Covent Garden Market Authority, 59; Lord Burnham, 71; Mr L.R. Carus, former principal, Birmingham School of Music, 64; Mrs B.D. Craig, former principal, Somerville College, Oxford, 76; Miss Catherine Denneve, actress, 48; Professor Charlton Erickson, American historian, 68; Colonel Sir Dennis Fairhurst, 65; Major-General Lord Michael Fitzalan Howard, Gold Stick to The Queen, 75; Miss Joan Fontaine, actress, 74; Lady (Michael) Fox, former director, British Institute of International and Comparative Law, 63; Mr Mike Hendrick, cricketer, 43; Miss Irene Hindmarch, former prin-

cipal, St Aidan's College, Durham, 68; Mr Derek Jacobi, actor, 53; Mrs Doris Lessing, author, 72; Lord Lloyd of Hampstead, QC, 76; Mr Donald McIntyre, opera singer, 57.

Mr Kelvin MacKenzie, editor, *The Sun*, 45; Mr James Sharples, chief constable, Merseyside, 48; Mr Michael Stoute, racehorse trainer, 46; Vice-Admiral Sir FitzRoy Talbot, 82; Mr A.R. Thatcher, former Registrar General for England and Wales, 65; Vice-Admiral Sir Hugo White, 52; Admiral Sir David Williams, former governor, Gibraltar, 70; Professor Sir David Williams, Vice-chancellor, Cambridge University, 61; Professor John Wing, psychiatrist, 68; Sir Hugh Wontner, hotelier, 83.

Mr N.K. Yowell and Miss M.W. Rogers

The engagement is announced between Nick, only son of Mr Alfred Youell and the late Mrs Amy Youell, of Coventry, West Midlands, and Maggie, elder daughter of Mr and Mrs Bryan Rogers, of Blockley, Gloucestershire.

Mr M.N. Jones and Miss C.J. Wales

The engagement is announced between Matthew, son of Mr and Mrs Stanley Jones, of Woodford Green, Essex, and Claire, daughter of Mr and Mrs Roy Wales, of Finchley, London.

Mr C.P. Ocroft and Miss E.A. Marsh

The engagement is announced between Charles, son of Mr and Mrs P.W. Ocroft, of Marlow, Buckinghamshire, and Elizabeth, daughter of Mr and Mrs R.A. Barsham, of Bolingbroke, Lincolnshire.

Mr J.N. Stourton and Miss M.A. Barsham

The engagement is announced between Julian, son of Mr and Mrs N.J. Stourton, of Arbour Hill, Bedale, North Yorkshire, and Margaret, daughter of the late Mr A.J. Barsham, of Broadwater, Weybridge, Surrey.

Mr J.D. Grossart and Miss T.K.P. Swift

The engagement is announced between John, eldest son of Dr and Mrs D.L. Grossart, of Haslemere, Surrey, and Tania, only daughter of Mr and Mrs P.L.P. Swift, of Weston Colville, Cambridge.

Anniversaries

BIRTHS: Franz Liszt, composer, Raiding, Hungary, 1811; Sarah Bernhardt, actress, Paris, 1844; Ivan Bunin, poet and novelist, Voronezh, Russia, 1870.

DEATHS: Sir Clowdesley Shovel, admiral of the fleet, drowned off the Isles of Scilly, 1707; Samuel Arnold, composer, London, 1802; Thomas Sheraton, cabinet maker, London, 1806; Henry Richard Fox, 3rd Baron Holland, politician and writer, London, 1840; Louis Spohr, composer, Kassel, 1859.

St Andrew's Ball

The St Andrew's Ball will be held at Grosvenor House on Tuesday, November 5, 1991.

There will be a dancing evening at Wandsbury Town Hall on Thursday, October 31. Ball tickets are £50 including dinner and breakfast, £40 Ball and breakfast only, from the Ball Secretary, The Garden House, Chertsey, Surrey, Alresford, Hampshire SO24 0QQ.

The Times Guide to Eastern Europe

The Times Guide to Eastern Europe is published today, price £8.99 from bookshops. Written by a team of specialists, it surveys the background to the recent dramatic upheavals.

OBITUARIES

BRIGADIER SIR MARK HENNIKER

Brigadier Sir Mark Henniker, Bt, CBE, DSO, MC, Royal Engineer and author, died on October 18 aged 85. He was born on January 23, 1906.

MARK "Honker" Henniker was the epitome of the pre-war Sapper officer who gloried in the Royal Engineers' soubriquet "mad, married or methodist". Everything that he did had a touch of originality about it, and his lucid pen enabled him to pass on his enthusiasms to others both as a contributor to *Blackwood's Magazine* and through his four autobiographical books. With reddish hair, fair complexion and bright compelling eyes, there was something attractively heretical about him. As with many heretics, he could be intolerantly opinionated. Life was over dull when he was about.

His first book, *Memoirs of a Junior Officer*, is a minor classic bringing to life the almost care-free days of pre-war soldiering at the School of Military Engineering at Chatham, and then on the North West Frontier of India with the Bengali Sappers and Miners, where he won the MC in the Mohmand Campaign of 1933, using his ingenuity and unconventional methods in support of the leading brigade in the advance over the Karappa Pass.

He was no stranger to India where he spent his earliest days, his father, F. C. Henniker, being a member of the Indian Civil Service. He was educated at Marlborough College, the Royal Military Academy, Woolwich, and King's College, Cambridge, and was commissioned into the Royal Engineers in 1926.

He describes his exploits in the second world war most perceptively and entertainingly in his book, *An Image of War*. In 1939 he went with the BEF to France as adjutant to the 2nd Divisional Engineers, and was given command of a field company in Montgomery's 3rd Division during the retreat to Dunkirk. After hold-



ing a sector of the final perimeter, he had, as he says, "a worm's eye view of the miracle of Dunkirk", rowing much of the way back to England with what was left of his company in two open boats. They managed to board an abandoned naval pinnace, got its engines working again and reached home safely.

Although not volunteering for parachute training, he was selected to command the sappers of "Boy" Browning's embryo 1st Airborne Division, allowing full rein to his originality and tactical acumen. He provided many of the ideas and trained the sappers for the successful Bruneval raid and for the first, hitherto unbroken, raid on the German heavy water plant in Norway in 1942. He landed by glider near Syracuse during the invasion

of Sicily, and, though wounded, helped in the capture of the vital Ponte Grande and Primosole bridges. He took part later in 1st Airborne Division's capture of Taranto from warships in September 1943. He was appointed OBE (military) for his work in establishing Taranto as a base port.

He did not take part in the invasion of Normandy — that was the 6th Airborne Division's task — but he became increasingly out of sympathy with his airborne colleagues over what he saw as over-complication of their plans, which led to delays and cancellation because they were overtaken by events on the Continent. He was transferred to the irascible G. I. Thomas's 43rd Welsh Division as its Commander Royal Engineers.

Ironically, it was his task to rescue as many of 1st Airborne Division as he could from Arnhem by ferrying them back across the Lower Rhine in assault boats in the face of intense German opposition, for which he was awarded his DSO. He stayed with the Welsh Division — and was a friend of G. L. Thomas — for the rest of the war, taking part in the winter fighting in the Rhineland, the crossing of the Rhine and the capture of Bremen and Cuxhaven.

"Honker" was back in India in 1946-7, commanding an Anglo-Indian engineer regiment in the Punjab during the tempestuous upheavals of partition. He will, however, find his niche in British history for the part he played during the Malayan campaign as Commander 63rd Gurkha Infantry Brigade, which he graphically records in his book *Red Shadow over Malaya* — perhaps the best personal account of fighting in Malaya that has been written. Under his command, the brigade reflected his adaptability and resourcefulness in their unrelenting search for terrorist "needles" in the Malayan jungle "haystack". During his three years in command, they achieved an impressive number of eliminations in close cooperation with the police and civil administration, which was made all the easier by his flexibility of mind and method.

His last military appointment was as Commander Corps Royal Engineers of 1st British Corps in 1955, which led to his close involvement in the Suez crisis. After he retired in 1958 he founded a private oil company which he managed until he retired again in 1977, to take up what he described as "quasi-scientific and harmless hobbies".

In 1945, he married Kathleen Denys Anderson. They had a son and a daughter. In 1958 he became the 8th Baronet on the death of his cousin, Lieutenant-Colonel Sir Robert Henniker, MC.

ARKADY STRUGATSKY

Arkady Strugatsky, Russian science-fiction writer (in collaboration with his brother Boris) died on October 14 aged 66. He was born in Batumi, Georgia, on August 28, 1925.

MUCH that comes under the description of "science-fiction" or "fantasy" — or perhaps in Russia as "fantastic miracle" — is derivative and feeble-witted trash. But this is no means applied to Arkady Strugatsky, the elder partner of the Brothers Strugatsky writing-team, who were immensely popular in Russia from the 1960s onwards — first, for their thrilling and well-written books, and secondly, but not least, for their clever and ironic expression of dissent at a time when it was highly unsafe. The service they rendered to an oppressed readership should not be underestimated.

Andrei Tarkovsky's film *Stalker* (1979), about a mysterious zone in the midst of an industrial wasteland where all normal laws are suspended, was based on a story by the Strugatskys, who wrote the screenplay for it. Peter Fleischman's German production, *Es ist nicht leicht, ein Gott zu sein* ("It's not easy to be a god"), is based on their 1964 novel, translated into English in 1973 as *Hard To Be A God*.

Arkady Natanovich Strugatsky was born in the industrial Black Sea port of Batumi, capital of the autonomous Georgian Republic of Adzhara. He was the son of an art-historian and a teacher. He studied languages, among them Japanese and English, and then became a translator of science-fiction novels and an editor in a publishing house. Boris, eight years his junior, was born in Leningrad and became an astronomer and mathematician. They began to write in 1956, and became — Arkady living in Moscow, Boris in Leningrad — freelance authors in 1964 with the publication of *Hard To Be A God*.

Hardline critics in both Russia and East Germany were not slow to find their blend of adventure, scientific

ALAN WHEATLEY

Graham Gaul writes:

MAY I add to your admirable and fitting tribute to Alan Wheatley (obituary, September 4) which I have just seen on return from abroad?

Perhaps I should say that until I retired a couple of years ago I was a BBC radio drama producer and Mr Wheatley appeared often in my productions for almost 40 years. Indeed, his last performance was for me when I was invited to do a guest production earlier this year.

Radio drama played a large part in Alan Wheatley's professional life. He appeared in countless productions and always enjoyed being at Broadcasting House. In the early years he worked with most of the pioneer producers and especially for Val Gielgud.

In 1961 he married a Swiss, Marlis Kindlimann. They had two sons and a daughter.

Alan Wheatley was a civilising influence on people with his modesty, kindness and charm.

Marriages

Mr O. Browne-Wilkinson and Miss C.R. Howell

The marriage took place on Saturday, October 19, at St Mary's Church, Twickenham, of Mr Oliver Browne-Wilkinson, youngest son of Lord Browne-Wilkinson and the late Lady Ursula Browne-Wilkinson, to Miss Carla Smith, daughter of Mr Charles Smith, of Hong Kong, and Mrs Ruth Wadson, of St Margaret's, Twickenham. The Rev Alas G. Jones officiated.

The bride also was given away by her brother, Daniel Smith, was attended by Susanna Wadson. Mr Benjamin Howell was best man.

Mr A.P.S. Moores and Miss N.M.L. Fitzjohn

The marriage took place on Saturday, October 19, at the Church of St Mary, Bitton, Avon, of Mr Alan Moores, only son of Mr Peter Moores, of Dyrholt Hall, Lancashire, and of Mrs Luciana Moores, of 84 Eaton Square, London, to Miss Nikki Fitzjohn, youngest daughter of Colonel John Fitzjohn, of Turleigh Mill, Bradford on Avon, Wiltshire, and Mrs Willie Beloe, of Lyon House, Dittisham, Dartmouth, Devon. Canon George Mitchell officiated.

The bride, who was given in marriage by her father, was attended by Jessica Crombie, Gemma Fitzjohn Sykes, Sophia Topley, Alice Ash, Francesca Gregson, Laurie Fitzjohn Sykes, Hamish Ritchie and Oliver Ritchie. Mr Alastair Wengate was best man.

A reception was held at the Dower House, Bitton, and the honeymoon will be spent in Egypt.

Lecture

Cambridge Union Society. Mr Casper Weintraub delivered the 1991 East Mountain memorial lecture to the Cambridge Union Society at the society yesterday.

Immortal memory



Lieutenant Commander David Harris, commanding officer of HMS Victory, laying a wreath yesterday at the spot where Nelson died in the ship's cockpit. Later, a Trafalgar Night dinner was held on board

Dinners

Company of Tobacco Pipe Makers and Tobacco Blenders

The Lord Mayor, accompanied by the Lady Mayoress, the Sheriffs and their ladies, was the speaker at the ladies' dinner of the Company of Tobacco Pipe Makers and Tobacco Blenders held yesterday at Vintners' Hall. The Master, Dr I. Redstone, presided. Lord Goodman, CH, also spoke.

Royal Society of St George

The Lord Mayor of Westminster was a speaker at the annual Trafalgar Victory dinner of the Royal Society of St George held last night at Grosvenor House. Mr John Minshull-Fogg, chairman, accompanied by Mrs Minshull-Fogg, presided. Admiral Sir Nicholas Hunt proposed the toast to the "Immortal Memory" and Commodore Christopher Craig, Sir Colin Cole, Garter Principal King of Arms, and The Rev Basil Watson also spoke. Among others present were:

Lord Hailsham of St Marylebone, CH, Sir Denis Thatcher and Mrs Margaret Thatcher, OM, MP, Admiral Sir Michael Llewellyn, General Sir John Chapple, Vice-Admiral Sir Kenneth Eaton, Lieutenant-Colonel Sir Martin Gilliat, Sir Frank Hayward, Sir Malcolm Field, Mr John Roper, Vice-Admiral N. Purvis and Rear-Admiral P.C. Abbott.

Pilgrims

The Pilgrims held a dinner at the Savoy Hotel last night in honour of Sir Robin Renwick, HM Ambassador to the United States. Lord Carrington, CH, president, was in the chair and Mr Oliver Wright also spoke. Among others present were:

1 finds
extra
benefits
need

Whatever happens, let your
conductor be worthy of the
gospel of Christ, as far
as whether or not I come and
hear you are standing firm,
united in spirit and mind,
and by your love and service to
advance the spiritual faith.
Philippians 1: 27

DEATHS

BROOKHOUSE - On October 17th, at The Portland Hospital to Suzanne (née Dufour) and Roger, a son, Charles.

CARAKEHIAN - On September 29th, in Brussels, to Julia (née Lubomirski) and Youcef, a son, and a daughter, a son, for Edward.

CARTWRIGHT - On October 17th, at The Portland Hospital to Jeanne and Andrew, a daughter, Elease Mary.

CHARTOUDOUIDES - On October 16th, at the Humane Hospital Wellington, to Melita and Bembie, a daughter, Jeanne, a son, for Christine.

CROSS - On October 20th, at St. George's Hospital, to Edna and Richard, a son, Alan James, Roger, a brother, for Lorraine.

FALCONER - On October 11th, in Nicola and John, a daughter, Rose.

FERIN-UNKEY - On October 13th, in Newcastle, New South Wales, Australia, to Peter, a son, and a daughter, Venetia, a daughter, a son, for Peter.

GILLIES - On October 7th, to Victoria and Michael, a son, George, 5, brother for Linda.

GOLD - On October 17th at St. Mary's to Laura (née Arnold-Brown) and Nicholas, a daughter, a son, and a daughter, a sister for Steven and James.

HEALY - On October 20th 1991, at Fernborough Hospital, to Helen (née Klobouckova) and Julian, a daughter, Josephine.

MULVILHILL - On October 11th, at Portman Hospital, to Helen, a son, and a daughter, Andrew, a daughter, a son, for Daniel and Joshua.

PEADY - On October 18th, at St. George's Hospital, to G.D. Crowe, a son, and a daughter, Frances.

PENNEY - On October 21st, to Tania (of Putham in London) and Ian (of Coburg in Germany) and a son, a son, Jacob, and a brother for Daniel and Joshua.

POLAK - On October 19th, at Portland Hospital, to Marie, a son, Christopher, and Anthony, a son, Alexander. Louis, a brother for William.

ROBINSON - On October 19th, at St. George's Hospital, to Stewart (née Stewart-Brown) and Eddie, a son, Thomas, a brother for Victoria.

STEARNS - On October 19th, 1991, in Virginia (née Hawkins), a son, Alexander Henry Edward, a son, George William, a son, and a daughter, Anna.

THOMAS - On October 21st, at Pontefract Hospital, to Caroline (née de Costa) and Martin, a son, Hugo John.

WITHEROW - On October 12th, to Barbara, a son, Christopher and Rose, a son, Thomas Edward.

MARRIAGES

PONTE-PALTA - On October 18th 1991 at Chestnut Town Hall, Tony and Beatriz.

To Place Your Classified Advertisement

Please telephone the number listed below between 9am and 6pm, Monday to Friday (late evening 7.30 pm on Thursdays) 9.30am and 12.30pm on Saturdays.

Private Advertisers:

Private 071-481 4000
Birth, Marriage and Death Notices 071-481 4000.

Trade Advertisers:

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Business to Business 071-481 1982
International Advertisers 071-481 3024
Motors 071-481 4422
Personal 071-481 1920
Property 071-481 1986
Public Appointments 071-481 1066
Education Appointments 071-481 1066
Travel 071-481 1989
U.K. Holidays 071-488 3698

Alternatively FAX your advertisement to:

071-782 7826

071-782 7827

Court and Social Advertising (tel enquires) 071-782 7730
(Advertisements accepted only in writing at least 48 hours prior to publication) 071-782 7347

Birth, Marriage and Death notices may be accepted over the telephone

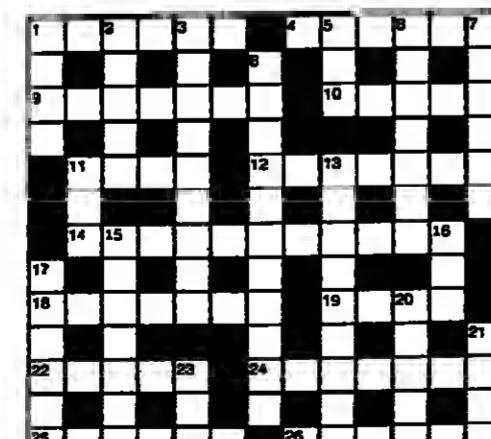
Please telephone by 5.00pm Monday - Thursday,

4.00pm Friday,

9.30am - 12.30pm Saturday for Monday's paper.

Marriage notices not appearing on the Court & Social Page may also be accepted by telephone.

CONCISE CROSSWORD NO 2618



SOLUTION TO NO 2617
1. Mob cap 5 Object 8 Lax 9 Paed 10 Byword 11 Kris 12 Down
2. Queen's patch 17 Teamster 19 Copy 21 Buzzer 23 Heswall
3. 24 Moul 25 Slopes 26 Tested

1X OWN: 2 on 3 Colosseum 4 Plaudit 5 Qabow 6 Jaw 7 Ceramic
13 Twitch 15 Inequal 16 Easitor 18 Terms 20 Paste 22 Zap

ROSE-BUTLEY - The
marriage lock since
Tuesday October 8th 1991 at
St Margaret's Church,
Market Street, Sutton-in-Ashfield,
Nottinghamshire, a son, John, and
a daughter, Jill, to Mrs. Jill Olivia Butley.

DEATHS

ANGEL - On October 20th, Morris Edward, peacefully in his sleep, at The Portland Hospital to Suzanne (née Dufour) and Roger, a son, Charles.

CARAKEHIAN - On September 29th, in Brussels, to Julia (née Lubomirski) and Youcef, a son, for Edward.

CARTWRIGHT - On October 17th, at The Portland Hospital to Jeanne and Andrew, a daughter, Elease Mary.

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THOMAS - On October 21st, at Pontefract Hospital, to Caroline (née de Costa) and Martin, a son, Hugo John.

WITHEROW - On October 12th, to Barbara, a son, Christopher and Rose, a son, Thomas Edward.

ELLIOTT - On October 16th 1991, James, much loved husband of the late T.C. Elliott, headmaster of Fan Court School, much loved mother of John, Gillian and grandmother of Nicholas and Helen. Service at Putney Vale Crematorium on Tuesday October 22nd at 1.45 pm. Enquiries/Bowers 081 545 4500.

GOODMAN - On October 19th 1991, peacefully at Broughs Hospital, Abergavenny, Powys, beloved husband of Sheila and devoted father of Vicki, Michael, and son, W.H. Daniel & Son, Mill Street, Aberystwyth, Wales.

GRAY - On October 18th 1991, peacefully after a short illness, Giddey, much loved husband of Betty, beloved mother of Michael and Carol, and grandmother of David and Robert, aged 78 years.

HARRIS - On October 18th, at St. George's Hospital, to John, a son, for Edward.

HAWKINS - On October 19th, at Mayday Hospital, to David and Barbara, a son, for Michael.

HEDDERLEY - On October 18th, at St. George's Hospital, to John, a son, for Michael.

HILL - On October 19th, Charles Wallace Hill aged 69 years, of Leighton, nr. Hove, died peacefully in his sleep, at home, in his 100th year. Services at St. George's Church, Hove, on Friday October 20th at 1.30 pm. Interment at St. George's Cemetery, Hove.

HINDREY - On Saturday October 19th, peacefully at home, Edward Vernon Hill (Third), much loved husband of Sheila and son of Michael and Sheila, and a brother for Michael and Sheila.

HOBSON - On Saturday October 20th, at St. George's Hospital, to John, a son, for Michael.

HODGSON - On Saturday October 20th, at St. George's Hospital, to John, a son, for Michael.

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NEW RELEASES

CHATTahoochee (15): Gary Oldman in a Florida penal hell-hole. Glumly drama that deserved post-pride. 10pm, with Dennis Lehane, director. Michael Jackson. Odeon Mezzanine (0438 915983).

CITY SLICKERS (12): Over-stretched with a plot that's as flat as Crystal and chums solving mid-life crises during a cattle trek. Starring Daniel Stern, Bruno Kirby, Helen Shaver. Director, Ron Underwood. Odeon Leicester Square (0423 915983).

DEBILAGOTS PARTS 3 AND 4 (16): A devastating analysis of a man's life and loves, with a plot that's as flat as the best from Krzysztof Kieslowski's *Ten Commandments* cycle. *Farol* (071 437 8402).

DOC HOLLWOOD (12): LA-bound doctor (Michael J. Fox) becomes waylaid in the sticks. Silly comedy where charm quickly fades; a Hollywood do-it-for-British director. Michael C. Glickman. Columbia (071 335 9772). Fulham Road (071 370 2556) Haymarket (071 358 1527) Oxford Street (071 336 0310).

EDWARD II (18): Re-telling reworking of Marlowe's play by Derek Jarman; words and images leap out at the audience. Steven Berkoff and Anna Carter-Taylor as star-crossed lovers. *Die* (071 358 1527). Starring the transvestite Queen. Curzon West End (071 433 4005) *Gas* (071 727 4043).

MANNIE ON THE MOVE (PG): Unfunny sequel to a dire 1987 comedy, though William Regal's show is mettle as the Head who falls for a living dead wife. Swanson. Stewart Raffill directs. Cannon Pantomime (071 490 0881). Odeon: Kensington (0423 914986) Mezzanine (0423 915983).

THE RECKLESS DOWN UNDER (U): The star from *Death Wish 2* Tim Matheson returns to a cause a kidnapped boy. Unambitious cartoon feature for the easily pleased. Directors, *Becket* (071 437 8402).

THEATRE GUIDE

Geoff Brown's assessment of current theatre in London

■ **AUNT JULIA AND THE SCRIMSHAWER** (12): *Gasche* (Marianne Ihne) falls for a man (Barry Humphries), who is a sex writer (Peter Falk). Whimsical magic plays. Zestful treatment of Mario Vargas Llosa's multi-layered novel. Director, Jon Amiel. Odeon Haymarket (0423 915983).

■ **THE COMMITMENTS** (15): Hard-bitten Dublin youngsters form a soul band. Fresh, funny, and buoyantly played by a largely amateur cast. Director, John Crowley. Camden Park (071 357 7024). Cannon: Chelsea (071 352 5056) Tottenham Court Road (071 353 5148). Odeon: Kensington (0423 914986). Marlowe (028 91459 0028) Plaza (071 459 2500). Piccadilly (071 370 2556) Piccadilly (071 497 9999) Screen on Baker Street (071 497 9999).

■ **MEETING VENUS** (12): Backstage drama while staging *Tannhäuser* in Paris, adroitly observed, but lacking punch. Starring Natascha Rothko, Glenn Close, directed by Steven Soderbergh. Barbican (071 358 0000) Coliseum: Putney Road (071 370 2556) Plaza (071 497 9999) Screen on Baker Street (071 497 9999).

■ **PROSPERO'S BOOKS** (15): Peter Greenaway's variation on *The Tempest*, with John Gielgud's Prospero stalking Shakespeare's text through a jungle of eye-popping images. Brilliant but pretentious. Director, John Gielgud. Piccadilly (071 437 4470) Piccadilly (071 437 4422).

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■ **KVETCH**: Steven Berkoff's into the Jewish tradition of the wild but Jewish. Coopers and Batsons, WC2 (071 494 5070). Mon-Fri, 8pm, Sat, 5pm and 8.30pm, 10.30pm.

■ **MURKIN JUDGES**: David Hare tackles our totting legal system; gags in the contest but a powerful bout.

■ **BIRMINGHAM ROYAL BALLET**: The company begins its autumn season tonight with David Bintley's popular full-length *Swan Lake*. *Death of a Salesman*, a new production of Webster's great symphonic ballet. Chorleywood, set to Brahma's Fourth Symphony. The ballet was originally made in 1933 but has been unseen for more than 20 years. Hippodrome, Hippodrome, Hare Street, Birmingham (021 622 7468). 7.30pm.

■ **RAMBERT DANCE COMPANY**: For its first ever West End season, Rambert is offering three London premieres: *Four Elements* by the American post-modern choreographer Lucy Chalosse. *Revolutions* by the English company, *Revolutions*, Britain's leading contemporary dance improviser, and *Sophie's Choice*. Signature Theatre, Portugal Street, London WC2 (071 494 5080). 8pm.

■ **CARLUCCIO AND THE QUEEN OF HEARTS**: The Queen of Hearts stages a new play by George Rutter at Hampstead Theatre. The play won an Independent Theatre Award at this year's Edinburgh Fringe Festival and tells the story of the last days of Bonnie Prince Charlie in 1746. Sandy Nelson directs. Hampstead Theatre, Swiss Cottage Street, NW3 (071 272 8224). 8pm.

■ **TARTUFFE**: Peter Hall directs Falstaff. Kendal, Paul Edington and John

CINEMA GUIDE

Geoff Brown's assessment of films in London and (where indicated with the symbol \oplus) on release across the country.

■ **HERMEL BUTRY, Mme Gabriel, Cannon: Chelsea (071 352 5056) Oxford Street (071 358 0910) Piccadilly: Kensington (0423 914986) Mezzanine (0423 915983).**

■ **CURRENT**

■ **AUNT JULIA AND THE SCRIMSHAWER** (12): *Gasche* (Marianne Ihne) falls for a man (Barry Humphries), who is a sex writer (Peter Falk). Whimsical magic plays. Zestful treatment of Mario Vargas Llosa's multi-layered novel. Director, Jon Amiel. Odeon Haymarket (0423 915983).

■ **THE COMMITMENTS** (15): Hard-bitten Dublin youngsters form a soul band. Fresh, funny, and buoyantly played by a largely amateur cast. Director, John Crowley. Camden Park (071 357 7024).

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5.00 Games: 5.05 Breakfast News
9.05 Kiley, Robert Kirby-Silk chairs a studio discussion on whether Sunday should be just another shopping day. With guest Angela Rumbold, MP, 8.50 Hot Chilli. Gail Ross hosts a programme series on great British flats, prepare haddock and Welsh rarebit.
16.00 News, regional news and weather 10.05 Playdays. For the very young (r) 10.25 The Weather. Cartoon adventures of a family of monsters living in Loch Ness (r) 10.35 The Clothes Show. Thirty-two, mostly-dressed, youngsters help celebrate the programme's first birthday at a party in London Zoo (r) (e)
11.00 News, regional news and weather 11.05 No Kidding. Family quiz show presented by Mike Smith and Kate Copstick (e) 11.30 Pebble Beach. Includes Russell Grant talking to Ken Livingston about his part as teacher, and Deb Jones in Nottingham on the kitesurfing trail. Plus, an interview with tragic sexkitten mother Sue Hallion on the birth of her new baby girl. With News, regional news and weather at 12.00
12.20 Pebble Beach. Judi Spiers's guest in the foyer today is the venerable comedian and comic actor Bob Hope 12.55 Regional news and weather
1.00 One O'Clock News and weather
1.30 Neighbours (e) 1.50 Four Square. General knowledge knock out quiz hosted by John Sache
2.15 Film: Road to Zanzibar (1941, b/w) starring Bob Hope and Bing Crosby. In the second of the comedies, Hope and Crosby play two men who are parted from their money by two beautiful women and find themselves in the middle of the jungle with only one weapon: a gun. With good songs, Dorothy Lamour and Una Merkel. Directed by Victor Schertzinger
3.45 Tom and Jerry: Comedy 3.50 Paddington Peas. Animated adventures 3.55 Bedtime and Breakfast. Episode four of the 12-part children's comedy drama (e) 4.10 Heechee with Cats and Co. Cartoon adventures of an alley cat and his friends (r)



Helping children to dig into the past: Francis Pryor (4.36pm)

4.36 Now Then. The first of a new six-part children's history series. Francis Pryor and Paul Birbeck visit Maiden Castle near Dorchester in Dorset and learn about a battle fought against the invading Romans and what village life was like in the Iron Age
5.00 Newround 5.10 Grange Hill. Episode 13 of the 20-part children's drama serial set in a school (r), (Ceefax) (e)
5.35 Neighbours (r). Northern Ireland: Inside Ulster 6.00 Six O'Clock News with John Humphrys and Jill Dando. Weather 6.30 Regional News magazine. Northern Ireland: Neighbours 7.00 Every Second Counts. Comedy quiz game for couples (s)
7.30 EastEnders. (Ceefax) (e)
8.00 Paul and Rose of Reggic Perrin. Reggie dons a heavy disguise and attends his own funeral in this week's episode of David Nobbs's classic comedy. Starring Leonard Rossiter and Pauline Yates (r), (Ceefax)
8.30 A Question of Sport presented by David Coleman. This week the regular team captains, Bill Beaumont and Ian Botham, are joined by Peter Beardsey, Faimes Whitbread, Carl Hooper and David Seaman (Ceefax) (e)
9.00 Nine O'Clock News with Michael Buerk. (Ceefax) Regional news
9.30 Making Out. Episode five of the Dobble Horsfield's conventionally comedy series about the lives and loves of women working in a northern electronics factory. (Ceefax) (s). Wales: Week in Work Out 10.00 Making 10.20 Film 91 with Steven Marmion. Among the films reviewed this week is Dead Again, Kenneth Branagh's latest; Boyz 'n the Hood, which marks John Singleton's directing debut; and David Mamet's Homicide which stars Jon Voight (e)
10.50 David Essex, Past, Present and... the singer in concert at the Bournemouth International Convention Centre
11.40 Spy for Hire. The private detective investigates the death of an old friend and discovers that he was a gun-runner. Starring Robert Urlich 12.30 Weather. Wales: Film 91 1.00 News and weather

6.00 News 6.15 Westminster 6.00 Daytime on 2: Quirke Minutes 8.15 Lemexpress 9.30 Diaz Times 9.45 You and Me 10.00 Over the Moon 10.15 Look and Read 10.35 C and O 10.40 Techno - Aesthetics and Design 11.00 Watch: Grandparents 11.15 English Express 11.35 Science Challenge (s) 11.55 Into Music (s) 12.15 What is Believing? 12.35 The Greenhouse Effect 12.55 A Way with Numbers 1.20 Bertha (e) 1.35 Crystal Trips and Adventures 1.45 The Big Picture: My Wales 2.15 News and weather followed by You and Me (r) 2.30 Snooker. The last two round matches in the Rothmans grand prix from the Hexagon, Reading, introduced by David Vine. The commentators are Ted Lowe, Jack Keaney, Cive Everton, Ray Edmonds, John Spencer, John Virgo and Eddie Charlton 3.00 News and weather followed by Westminster Live. Includes prime minister's question time 3.30 News, regional news and weather 4.00 Snooker. Further fifth round coverage from the Hexagon, Reading 5.30 Dreams Gardens. Garden designer Alex Dingwall Main explores the different uses of water in garden design. He visits gardens in Hampshire, Derbyshire and Gloucestershire (r)
6.00 Film: The Pagans (1945) starring Jack Palance, Jeff Chandler and Ludmila Tcherina. Glossey version of the story of Attila the Hun. It tells how one of his captured Roman centurions escapes and lays plans for an epic battle between the Romans and the barbarians. Directed by Douglas Sirk
7.30 Lemexpress Now. Night Visitors - a film by British animator Richard O'Brien (r)
7.40 Assignment: The Secret of the Steppes.
● CHOICE: Brian Barron's report from Mongolia is a mixture of history and current affairs which runs from Genghis Khan to the present day but concentrates on the atrocities of the Stalinist era. After the first world war Mongolia became the 16th Soviet republic in all but name and threw up its own version of Stalin, a murderous and drunken monster called Marshal Chobalsan. It has been estimated that one in ten of the population died on Chobalsan's orders. Many of the victims were Buddhist monks, shot through the head as part of a systematic attempt to wipe out their faith. The programme has two particularly striking sequences. One is of skulls and bones being unearthed from a mass grave. The other is an interview with a former chief exterminator who personally put 15,000 men to death. Now old and wizened, he recalls the episode with the calm matter-of-factness of someone who feels not a shred of guilt
8.00 Food and Drink presented by Michael Barry, Paul Heaney and Jill Goodwin. Includes items on diet and its effect on cholesterol; and the rodiness of real lemonade
9.00 The Booker Prize. A Late Show special, presented by Sarah Dunant and Tracey MacLeod live from London's Guildhall. Coverage of the result of this year's competition and a discussion on the six novels shortlisted



A romantic evocation of rural England: Roger Scruton (9.50pm)

9.50 Think of England.
● CHOICE: Roger Scruton, philosophy professor and guru of the Conservative party, offers a sturdy defence of the English countryside as embodying the national genius for harmony and compromise. He argues that the landscape can only be preserved by private ownership and blames "iniquitous tax laws" for the disappearance of great houses. Scruton concedes that the rural economy depends on the leisure pursuits of the townspeople. But he wishes what he calls the "heathen inhabitants" of the inner cities would not roam the countryside in their motor cars. Although himself an in-comer, he does his roaming on a motorcycle or horse. He attacks the Anglican Church for its treasy intrigues. His rural world is essentially a romantic one, evoked by Constable's paintings, Trollope's novels, traditional landowners and fox hunting. The common people are only briefly glimpsed
10.20 Film 91 with Steven Marmion. Among the films reviewed this week is Dead Again, Kenneth Branagh's latest; Boyz 'n the Hood, which marks John Singleton's directing debut; and David Mamet's Homicide which stars Jon Voight (e)
10.50 David Essex, Past, Present and... the singer in concert at the Bournemouth International Convention Centre
11.40 Spy for Hire. The private detective investigates the death of an old friend and discovers that he was a gun-runner. Starring Robert Urlich 12.30 Weather. Wales: Film 91 1.00 News and weather

6.00 TV-am 6.25 Jeopardy! Quiz game in which Steve Jones supplies the answers and the contestants have to come up with the questions 9.55 Thames News and weather

10.00 The Time... The Place... John Stapleton chairs a discussion on a topical subject

10.40 Red, Green, Freddie. For the young (r)

12.30 News with John Suchet. (Oracle) Weather 1.10 Thames News and weather

1.20 Home and Away. Australian family drama serial. (Oracle) 1.50 A Country Practice. Medical drama serial (e)

2.20 Take the High Road. Highland-based soap 2.50 Give Us a Clue. Celebrity charades series chaired by Michael Parkinson (s)

3.15 ITN News Headlines 3.20 Thames News headlines 3.25 Families. Drama serial connecting Australia with the north of England (a)

3.55 Hot Dog. Puppet series 4.05 Rupert. Animated adventures of the hero of Nutwood and his chums (e) 4.30 Children's Ward. Children's drama set in a large city hospital. (Oracle) (s) 5.00 Cartoon starring Duck Duck

5.10 Blockbusters. General knowledge quiz for teenagers

5.40 Thames. Help Yourself. Spreckley with news of the "wrapping is a no-off" campaign

6.00 Home and Away (r). (Oracle)

6.30 Thames News. (Oracle)

7.00 Emmerdale. Soap set in the Yorkshire Dales. (Oracle)

7.30 Thames Reports: House of Cards. Reporter Marcus Powell talks to householders about the consequences of thousands of pounds being knocked off the value of their homes because of the property boom. Plus, the increasing row over the government's decision to privatise the groundstaff working for the royal parks

8.00 The Bill. Losing it. PC Young is deeply affected by the suicide of a young prostitute and turns to WPC Datta for sympathy and help, but she can give enough. Starring Colin Altidge and Seeta Indrani. (Oracle)

8.30 The Curse of Mr Bean. Rowan Atkinson stars as the accident-prone Mr Bean. Tonight, he drives, swims, orders lunch and demonstrates why he hasn't got a girlfriend (s)

9.00 Come On. Comedy drama series starring Michael Eppich as a naive private detective. In this adventure, he is re-united with an old flame. (Oracle)

10.00 News at Ten with Alistair Stewart and Trevor McDonald. (Oracle) Weather 10.30 Thames News and weather

10.40 Viewpoint 91: End of Empire.

● CHOICE: The Latvian filmmaker Yuris Podnieks has provided a unique and individual record of the Soviet Union during the painful transition from Stalinism to glasnost and perestroika. *End of Empire* draws on material from previous documentaries, including the award-winning *Hello, Do You Hear Us?* and *Homeland* but is mainly based on footage shot during and after the abortive August coup. Podnieks was in Latvia when the news of Gorbachev's overthrow came through. He was arrested, interrogated and beaten up. His camera was smashed. Undeterred he found another camera and resumed filming. To assess the post-coup mood he travelled to Georgia, Armenia and the Ukraine. As always his concern was to capture the struggle of ordinary people for independence and freedom. Ironically, now that they look like going to hell, he confesses to a feeling of anti-climax. (Oracle)

11.40 Predator Cell Block. An Australian drama set in a women's maximum security prison

12.30 The Videowriter. Marcella Frostick reviews the latest video releases

1.00 The Videomizer. McCall is hired by an inventor whose designs have been stolen by a big corporation. Starring Edward Woodward

2.00 Donostia. A discussion whether bald men are sexy 2.30 Nine Bells. Instant soup anyone and banana sandwiches 3.00 60 Minutes. Award-winning American news magazine

4.00 Entertainment UK. A guide to Britain's entertainment scene

5.00 That's Their Company. American comedy series

5.30 ITN Morning News with Tim Nolin. Ends at 6.00

The Soviet Union's political transition: Yuris Podnieks (10.40pm)

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9.00 Without Walls: Selling Murder - the Killing Films of the Third Reich.

● CHOICE: One of the less publicised evils of the Third Reich was its systematic murder of the mentally and physically disabled. Under their so-called euthanasia programme the Nazis killed some 200,000 disabled people by starvation, lethal medication or toxic gas. The slaughter was justified by branding these unfortunate as a genetic threat to the purity of the German race. Joanna Mack's sobering documentary not only reconstructs this dreadful episode but includes samples of Nazi propaganda films, scripts and fragments of which have recently come to light in the former East Germany. They often featured a professor figure to lend authority to their evil ideology while using harsh under-lighting to make the patients look grotesque. In more subtle form the message was embodied in a wartime feature film, *Accuse*, which was seen by 15 million people and won a prize at the Venice festival

10.00 Film: A Question of Love (1978) starring Gena Rowlands and Jane Alexander. A made-for-television drama, based on fact, about the struggle of a mother to keep her young son when a suit is brought by her former husband seeking custody of the child because the mother is a lesbian. Directed by Jerry Thorpe

11.50 The Dick Powell Theatre: A Swiss Affair (b/w). Two secret agents are in Zurich attempting to acquire the services of a defecting Soviet scientist. Their task is made more difficult when they fall for each other. Starring Hazel Court

12.50am John McLaughlin and Jonas Hellborg. Rock and classical guitar combine in this concert recorded in Bourges in 1987. Ends at 1.20

A genetic threat to the purity of the German race (9.00pm)

CHANNEL 4

6.00 The Channel 4 Daily 9.25 Schools

12.00 The Parliament Programme presented by Anne Perkins

1.00 Sesame Street. Pre-school learning series

2.00 Film: Pilot No 5 (1943, b/w) starring Franchot Tone, Marsha Hunt, Gene Kelly and Van Johnson. Second world war drama about a lawyer who, after losing his job by exposing a corrupt southern politician, enlists in the airforce and volunteers for a suicide mission against a Japanese aircraft carrier. Directed by George Sidney

3.15 The Coasts of Clyde. A 1959 British Rail film in which broadcaster Bernard Duden takes his family to his family's home territory around the Firth of Clyde before moving to Aran.

3.45 Third Wave. Mevis Nicholson presents the series for the over 55s. Today's programme examines how Western ideals of consumerism and individualism have encroached on old ways and attitudes. (Textless)

4.30 Fifteen-to-One. Quick-fire general knowledge quiz

5.00 Owl TV. The last in the children's wildlife series comes from Whipsnade Zoo where Michaela Strachan meets a new-born desert lynx. Sally Foster visits a hospital for injured and orphaned bats in Penzance and a field study centre for handicapped children near Lostwithiel in Cornwall. (Teletext)

5.30 Some Difference. Magazine series about disability. Today's edition investigates why hundreds of diabetics are proposing to take the makers of insulin to court over changes in its methods of manufacture. Presenters: Mark Tandy and Ian Macrae

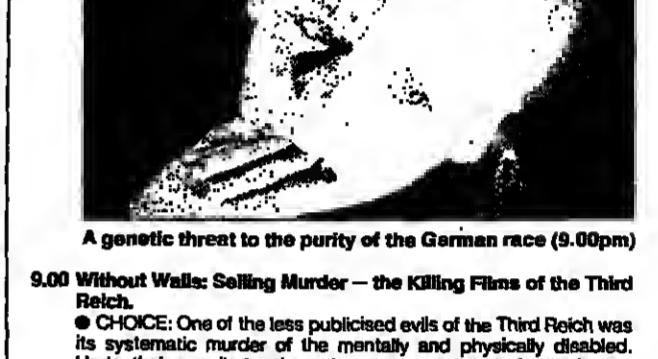
6.00 My Two Dads. American comedy series about two bachelors who want a 12-year-old daughter

6.30 Happy Days. Henry Winkler, as the super-cool Fonzie in the 1950s-set comedy series. Tonight, he dabbles unsuccessfully in exorcism

7.00 Channel 4 News with Jon Snow and Zainab Badawi. (Teletext)

8.00 From Russia With Laughter. An investigation into Soviet humour, including clips from performances by leading Soviet comedians (r)

8.30 The last in the fly-on-the-wall series detailing the work of a group of lawyers and their clients. Tonight, solicitor Caroline Aire defends a woman whose violent husband has disappeared leaving her with his business debts; and Philip Brownell handles the case of a woman whose husband was killed in a private coal mine



The Soviet Union's political transition: Yuris Podnieks (10.40pm)

9.00 Without Walls: Selling Murder - the Killing Films of the Third Reich.

● CHOICE: One of the less publicised evils of the Third Reich was its systematic murder of the mentally and physically disabled. Under their so-called euthanasia programme the Nazis killed some 200,000 disabled people by starvation, lethal medication or toxic gas. The slaughter was justified by branding these unfortunate as a genetic threat to the purity of the German race. Joanna Mack's sobering documentary not only reconstructs this dreadful episode but includes samples of Nazi propaganda films, scripts and fragments of which have recently come to light in the former East Germany. They often featured a professor figure to lend authority to their evil ideology while using harsh under-lighting to make the patients look grotesque. In more subtle form the message was embodied in a wartime feature film, *Accuse*, which was seen by 15 million people and won a prize at the Venice festival

10.00 Film: A Question of Love (1978) starring Gena Rowlands and Jane Alexander. A made-for-television drama, based on fact, about the struggle of a mother to keep her young son when a suit is brought by her former husband seeking custody of the child because the mother is a lesbian. Directed by Jerry Thorpe

11.50 The Dick Powell Theatre: A Swiss Affair (b/w). Two secret agents are in Zurich attempting to acquire the services of a defecting Soviet scientist. Their task is made more difficult when they fall for each other. Starring Hazel Court

12.50am John McLaughlin and Jonas Hellborg. Rock and classical guitar combine in this concert recorded in Bourges in 1987. Ends at 1.20

A genetic threat to the purity of the German race (9.00pm)

9.00 Without Walls: Selling Murder - the Killing Films of the Third Reich.

● CHOICE: One of the less publicised evils of the Third Reich was its systematic murder of the mentally and physically disabled. Under their so-called euthanasia programme the Nazis killed some 200,000 disabled people by starvation, lethal medication or toxic gas. The slaughter was justified by branding these unfortunate as a genetic threat to the purity of the German race. Joanna Mack's sobering documentary not only reconstructs this dreadful episode but includes samples of Nazi propaganda films, scripts and fragments of which have recently come to light in the former East Germany. They often featured a professor figure to lend authority to their evil ideology while using harsh under-lighting to make the patients look grotesque. In more subtle form the message was embodied in a wartime feature film, *Accuse*, which was seen by 15 million people and won a prize at the Venice festival

10.

Political sketch
S big match
, not news!

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- LAW REPORT 32
- SPORT 34-38

THE TIMES BUSINESS

TUESDAY OCTOBER 22 1991

Glaxo in legal fight against challenger

GLAXO, the world's second-largest drug company, launched a further American legal battle yesterday to keep the exclusive rights in its best-selling anti-ulcer drug, Zantac, which has been the powerhouse of profits for many years.

It is suing the private and secretive Canadian concern Novopharm, which now has an anti-ulcer treatment drug under consideration by the American Food and Drug Administration, whose approval would mean a new challenger to Zantac when Glaxo's first American patent expires in 1995.

Glaxo has filed a new patent with American regulators that would effectively protect its exclusivity over Zantac for a further seven years until 2002. This is being challenged by Novopharm and Genpharm, a Canadian father-and-son team.

Jobs axed

Jessops, the Essex vehicle distributor, is making 10 per cent of its 500 workforce redundant, and says that when pre-tax profits for the year to August 31 are announced on November 13 "they will be somewhat lower than expectations due to prevailing weak trading conditions". The shares fell 7p to 42p.

Tempas, page 24

Kuwait quest

Bankers at JP Morgan are holding last-ditch talks in the City to try to persuade a British bank to participate in Kuwait's \$5 billion syndicated loan. British banks have pointedly refused to join the syndicate, despite the presence of most of the world's largest institutions.

Missing out, page 23

THE POUND

US dollar 1.7207 (+0.0007)
German mark 2.9063 (-0.0065)
Exchange index 90.4 (same)
Bank of England official close (4pm)

STOCK MARKET

FT 30 share 1978.2 (-17.3)
FT-SE 100 2575.7 (-25.4)
New York Dow Jones 3055.90 (-21.25)
Tokyo Nikkei Avge 25016.81 (+12.99)

MAJOR CHANGES

RISES:
President 220p (+10p)
News Corp 50p (+32p)
News Int'l 230p (+10p)
FALLS:
Grand Met 844p (-120p)
Sot & Newcastle 412p (-100p)
Cable & Wireless 562p (-10p)
PPG 50p (-50p)
THORN EMI 791p (-10p)
Rank Org 658p (-28p)
Amstrad 520p (-22p)
Consumer's Union 758p (-110p)
Legal & General 385p (-110p)
Royal 324p (-10p)
ADT 493p (-120p)
BOC 575p (-10p)
Carlton Cigarettes 426p (-22p)
Carreras Group 6024p (-20p)
Scottish TV 465p (-11p)
MEPC 45p (-12p)
Sot Met 74p (-12p)
Closing Prices... Page 25

INTEREST RATES

London: Bank Base: 10.1%
3-month Interbank: 10.1%
3-month call rate: 10.1%
3-month Repurchase: 10.1%
Federal Funds: 14.1%
3-month Treasury Bills: 5.04-5.02%
30-year bonds: 101.11-101.11

CURRENCIES

London:
\$ 1.7200
DM 2.9077
SwF 2.5422
FF 8.9175
Yen 102.70
£ 1.10.4
ECU 0.704213
ECU 1.402034

New York:
\$ 1.7190
DM 2.8903
SwF 1.4801
FF 8.9175
Yen 102.70
£ 1.10.4
SDR 0.703227
SDR 1.30673

GOLD

London Fixing:
\$ 363.10 cm \$363.80
close \$363.80-364.30 (£211.25-
£211.75)
New York:
Comex \$363.15-366.65*

NORTH SEA OIL

IPI: 134.5 September (1987-100)
Denotes midday trading price

CBI's vision of trade department out of line with policies put forward by Lilley

JAMES CALVERT-JONES

Industry urges shake-up in role of DTI

By PHILIP BASSETT, INDUSTRIAL EDITOR

BUSINESS leaders yesterday launched their most searching criticism of the government's attitude towards industry and called for a refocusing of the work of the trade and industry department as part of a new strategy for British manufacturing.

Although the Confederation of British Industry was careful to avoid making specific points about individuals, the thrust of its proposals for reforming the DTI is so out of line with the policies of Peter Lilley, the industry secretary, as to make their enactment virtually impossible with him in the post.

Suggestions are already circulating in Whitehall that a re-elected Conservative government would reshape the

DTI, drawing into it the energy department and possibly part of all the employment department.

The new department would move closer to an interventionist role in British industry and called for a refocusing of the work of the trade and industry department as part of a new strategy for British manufacturing.

The CBI's recommendations for government's role in industry are broadly in line with the Whitehall suggestions for reformed DTI.

The CBI report, drawn up after consultation throughout British industry and with the particular imprint of such companies as Vickers, IBM, TI, ICI, Vauxhall, British Aerospace, John Mowlem, Short Brothers and Peugeot

Talbot, said there was a feeling that the priorities necessary for British manufacturing are "insufficiently recognised" by the government.

Criticising the fact that industry, finance, government and the civil service are "unusually fragmented" in the UK, the CBI said a range of governmental factors were "particularly damaging to manufacturing industry".

□ The DTI is "preoccupied" with its regulatory role, and "often appears ineffective in promoting the interests of manufacturing within Whitehall".

□ Government departments do not appear to take the impact of policies on manufacturing competitiveness into account.

□ The National Economic Development Council is ineffective as a manufacturing forum and should be reconstituted.

□ The Treasury and Bank of England have an "insufficient depth of understanding" about the realities of manufacturing.

A range of issues, especially concerning the EC, cannot be left for individual companies to pursue. The government should champion British industry internationally, and the DTI should be specifically refocused to play a decreasing role in regulation, and instead to encourage government action promoting the long-run international competitiveness of business.

John Banham, CBI director general, said the CBI was looking "beyond the next election" at manufacturing priorities for the next decade. Asked whether the CBI's proposals were incompatible with Mr Lilley remaining as industry secretary, Mr Banham said it would be wrong to go into personalities, but he specifically rejected the idea that Mr Heseltine was wedded to any outmoded forms of government intervention in industry.

Mr Lilley and Mr Heseltine will address the annual CBI conference, in Bournemouth in two weeks' time, which will debate the report. The document also calls for the adoption by companies of best manufacturing practice, for changes in the financial relationship between banks and companies, and for more effective steps to represent manufacturers' interests.

As part of the, the CBI

plans to establish the National Manufacturing Council to research, analyse and promote manufacturing industry.

The DTI denied that it

needed refocusing, and said it was working to objectives laid down in 1987 and revised by Mr Lilley. They included trade liberalisation, encouraging competition, extending privatisation and fostering the working of markets.

Mr Lilley last night endorsed the CBI's commitment to manufacturing, but he avoided addressing the CBI's points about his department's role.

Mr Cohen said he assumed the bank had taken "water-tight legal advice".

Mr Cohen said he assumed the bank had taken "water-tight legal advice".

Two months after the rights



Pointing the way: John Banham, outlining the CBI's manufacturing priorities yesterday

Lloyd's faces mass US action

By JONATHAN PRYNN

THE entire internal membership of the Council of Lloyd's of London, including David Coleridge, the chairman, and Alan Lord, the chief executive, have been named individually in a court action by 64 American Lloyd's names.

The writ, filed in the US district court in Manhattan, New York, by Proskauer, Rose, Goetz & Mendelsohn, the legal firm, alleges violation of federal laws and federal anti-racketeering legislation.

Almost 400 defendants are named in the writ, including 266 syndicates, 16 members, agents, 42 managing agents, and 59 individuals. Many of the most powerful figures in the market are named in the writ, including Murray Lawrence, the former chairman, Stephen Merrett, head of the Merrett underwriting group, and David Rowland, chairman of Sedgwick, who is leading a task force to examine Lloyd's future structure.

The action is the latest, but by far the biggest and most ambitious, of a series of court cases launched in America by loss-making names this year. New York names argue that Lloyd's membership counts as a security under the 1933 Securities Act and that Lloyd's is, therefore, in breach of Securities and Exchange Commission registration requirements. They also believe that members' agents violated anti-fraud regulations when recruiting names in America.

The names have been hit by several catastrophic losses. A number of plaintiffs have lost between \$300,000 and \$500,000 and the total personal losses to date for the 1988, 1989 and 1990 years are more than \$9 million. Under anti-racketeering claims, the plaintiffs can seek triple damages and costs. As in Britain, many of the names were recruited in the mid- and late Eighties, when Lloyd's was short of capacity, and have not benefited from the years of plenty up to 1988.

Lloyd's is expected to argue that the American courts have no jurisdiction over names who effectively sign away their rights to a hearing in overseas courts when they become members. Lloyd's has tried to pre-empt the action by serving writs in the English courts against three of the higher profile American names.

Lloyd's had no comment to make yesterday evening but is certain to fight the action.

Arrow advice 'watertight'

By ANGELA MACKAY

THE former chief executive of County NatWest, the investment bank, said he believed his executives had taken "watertight" legal advice on the record rights issues made to September 1987 by Blue Arrow, the recruitment group, to fund the takeover of Manpower, its American rival.

On the first day of his evidence, Jonathan Cohen, one of the defendants, said several times that he had been reassured on the legality of the bank's decision to increase the take-up level of the issue from 38 per cent to 49 per cent by buying shares.

Mr Cohen told an Old Bailey jury that David Reed, a former County director, called him at home to tell him about the lower than expected take-up and the decision for County and UBS Phillips & Drew, the stockbroker, to buy about 12 per cent of the issue between them. He said he asked Mr Reed if the lawyers and Elizabeth Brimelow, the compliance director, were "happy" and had been assured that they were.

Jeremy Roberts QC, for Mr Cohen, later asked "from beginning to end what was your understanding of the legal advice".

Mr Cohen said he assumed the bank had taken "water-tight legal advice".

Two months after the rights

issue, a meeting was held at County to discuss whether to disclose the bank's position and its subsequent losses after the share market crash in October. Mr Keat said he was in favour of disclosure.

Mr Cohen, Mr Reed, Nicholas Wells, a former County director, Martin Gibbs and Christopher Stainforth, both former UBS Phillips & Drew directors, County NatWest, NatWest Investment Bank and UBS Phillips & Drew, all deny conspiring to mislead the markets over the result of the rights issue.

The trial continues today.

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Fighting for body and soul in US

From PHILIP ROBINSON IN NEW YORK



Roddick: hates cosmetics industry

Body Shop, the ecologically and socially conscious cosmetics chain that is one of the few British retailing success stories in America, is under attack. As Anita Roddick, the group's founder, tours America promoting her book *Body and Soul* — it begins: "I hate the cosmetics industry because it lies, it cheats, it exploits women" — two billion-dollar rivals are spending heavily to enter the politically correct non-animal tested personal care products market.

Without a single penny of advertising, Body Shop's earth-aware products have become popular with thousands of Americans. But Estée Lauder, the \$2 billion cosmetics group that ranks top in department store sales, and The Limited Inc, an aggressive retailer worth almost \$5 billion, are expected to take a more traditional route to grab a share of what Ms Roddick has established as a significant segment of the \$20 billion-a-year American cosmetics market.

Competition is likely to be fierce. Between them, the three groups have 240 stores. But the figure is forecast to

multiply six times in the next three years to 1,500. Body Shop says it will expand its 13 company-owned stores and 67 franchised outlets in America to 120 by the end of next year and to 500 by 1995. That pace will be matched by Estée Lauder's Origins Natural Resources stores 100 of which have opened since the line's creation in August last year. The Limited's Bath and Body Works has

60 stores, will have 100 by the year-end and 500 by the mid-Nineties. The fight has already reached the courtroom steps. Two months ago, Body Shop reached an out-of-court settlement with Bath and Body Works over copy-cat stores. Bath and Body has agreed to limit the use of the colour green in its stores — almost a trade mark for Body Shop — and will also give its new outlets a more country feel.

Body Shop, founded in the UK in 19

NatWest Bancorp reduces losses

By NEIL BENNETT
BANKING CORRESPONDENT

RECOVERY is under way at National Westminster Bank's American subsidiary, where losses fell sharply in the third quarter after a radical management shake-up.

Net losses at NatWest Bancorp in the three months reached \$65.7 million. Although this was almost double the loss of \$35.3 million in the same period of 1990, it compares with an \$85.1 million deficit in the second quarter, and \$191 million in the first quarter of this year.

The losses were caused by a bad debt provision of \$123 million for the quarter. NatWest Bancorp has now lost \$342 million in the year to date following provisions of \$480 million. The bank is expected to stay in the red for the rest of the year.

Bad debts provisions now total \$676 million, or almost 5 per cent of the bank's total loan book.

Despite the continuing losses, John Tugwell, the chairman of NatWest Bancorp, said the bank showed improvement and that progress would continue in the fourth quarter.

"We are well positioned to accomplish our anticipated return to profitability because our business is sound and costs are under control."

The figures were boosted by a \$15.7 million profit on the sale of securities. This helped to offset a \$7 million fall in net interest income to \$180 million due to the increase in non-performing loans.

Lasmo offer still weak says Ultramar

By MARTIN BARROW

ULTRAMAR has again rejected Lasmo's £1.2 billion all-share takeover bid and urged shareholders to retain their investment while the diversified oil and gas company prepares its defence.

John Darby, chairman of Ultramar, said that Lasmo's offer document, posted to shareholders yesterday, gave no reason to alter the view that the terms were "totally inadequate in view of the strengths of the business and the true value of the assets".

Lasmo is offering one new share for each Ultramar share, giving Ultramar shareholders 54 per cent of the enlarged company. Yesterday Lasmo shares rose 6p to 321p, helped by news of two field discoveries, while Ultramar shed 6p to 345p, narrowing the gap that opened up last Thursday when the offer was made public.

Lasmo, which proposes to retain Ultramar's upstream interests while disposing of downstream activities, described its target's operational strategy as "irrational", comprising businesses that were geographically disparate and revolved around incompatible products.

The bidders argue that Ultramar's vertical integration is flawed because the majority of its upstream production is gas and liquefied natural gas that is sold to

third parties and cannot be used in the group's refining and marketing businesses. Downstream activities thus rely on crude oil purchased in the open market and exposed to market fluctuations.

Lasmo also claims that

PHILIP Green, the Amber Day chairman and chief executive, is looking forward to a good Christmas despite a 1 per cent drop in same-store sales last year. He believes his What Everyone Wants chain is well positioned to make the most of Christmas with heavily discounted books, videos, toys, perfumes and compact discs as well as clothes.

The group made pre-tax profits of £10.1 million (£3.02 million) in the year to August 3 on sales of £103 million (£31.2 million). Earnings rose from 4.28p to 7.05p and the final dividend is 1.8p, making 2.7p, up 35 per cent.

The rise in profits is due to the success of WEW, which was acquired for £46.7 million last year and contributed £13.1 million to operating profits of £13.9 million. The menswear businesses, Review and Woodhouse, made a £304,000 loss (£1.37 million profit) and the imports and distribution division contributed £1.12 million to profits (£447,000).

Mr Green said the results from WEW represented a net margin of 16.2 per cent and demonstrated the group's ability to increase buying margins, improve stock levels and control markdowns while offering genuine discount prices.

CDs will be on sale in the shops at £1.99 this Christmas and video cassettes at £2.99. Branded perfume at discounted prices will be available in all WEW stores and lingerie departments are being opened.

The group has appointed Graham Coles as financial director and Leslie Warman as a non-executive director. The shares rose 5p to 125p.

Tempus, page 24

Buy boosts Amber Day

By GILLIAN BOWDITCH

PHILIP Green, the Amber Day chairman and chief executive, is looking forward to a good Christmas despite a 1 per cent drop in same-store sales last year. He believes his What Everyone Wants chain is well positioned to make the most of Christmas with heavily discounted books, videos, toys, perfumes and compact discs as well as clothes.



JAMES CALVERT-JONES

Thoughts on Christmas: Philip Green yesterday

BUSINESS ROUNDUP

Aberdeen considering buyout despite loss

IN SPITE of incurring hefty full-year losses, Aberdeen Steak House Group is still considering a proposed management buyout that would see Ali Salim, the chairman and 78 per cent shareholder, take the restaurant group private through a buyback offer to shareholders.

The London restaurant chain admitted, however, that buyout activities had been "temporarily shelved" pending an improvement in the economy and completion of the group's disposal programme. Aberdeen suffered a pre-tax loss of £3.27 million in the year to end-December (£1.66 million profit) on turnover up from £14.9 million to £16 million. The loss per share surged to 23.5p (1p). The company is again omitting its final dividend.

Clydesdale improves

THE net asset value at the Clydesdale Investment Trust increased 7.4 per cent to 98.57p a share at the end of September 1991, up from 91.82p a year earlier. Pre-tax revenue rose from £601,000 to £692,000 and total income was £936,000 (£844,000). Earnings per share are 4.1p (3.45p). The final dividend is maintained at 245p, making an unchanged total of 3.45p.

Tobacco Dock bought

TOBACCO Dock, the shopping centre in London's Docklands, has been acquired by an unnamed British investor for about £15 million from the receivers, Michael Jordan and Robin Addy, of Cork Gully, the accountant.

Courts have been exchanged but it is understood that the sale of the 130,000 sq ft development in Wapping will not be completed until December 31. Tobacco Dock Developments, its previous owner, invested £50 million in converting the 19th century Grade 1 listed buildings east of St Katharine Dock into a 58-unit retail complex at the height of the Eighties consumer boom.

Lovell sells offshoot

YJ LOVELL (Holdings), the housebuilder, property developer and contractor, has sold its Lovell Homes (Scotland) subsidiary, for about £10 million, to Ambio Homes. The move follows a strategic review by the company of its Lovell Homes business. About £5 million of the consideration is payable immediately, with the remainder due at the end of next March.

D&B to sell Pannell

DEAN & BOWES Group, the specialist pub and hotel refurbisher, is selling its Pannell Signs subsidiary to its management, in a move that reduces group debt by £1.12 million and cuts gearing by a quarter to about 60 per cent.

The company will receive £38,000, with the purchaser of Pannell assuming indebtedness amounting to £203,000, along with responsibility for the repayment of the bank overdraft of £1.07 million. Pannell, a Nottingham sign manufacturer supplying the retail and leisure industries, has been hit by the recession and did not contribute to the group's interim operating profits.

Bourne End omits payout

SHARPLY higher interest costs took their toll on Bourne End Properties, the property investment group. The company has passed its interim dividend (1p) after suffering a pre-tax loss of £796,000 in the six months to end-June. The group reported a £65,000 profit a year ago. Interest costs were £2.44 million (£1.25 million). There is a 9.6p deficit per share (0.77p earnings).

Granada names chief executive

By COLIN CAMPBELL

GRANADA Group has appointed Gerry Robinson, of the Compass Group, as its chief executive, filling a post that had been vacant since May.

Granada added that Alex Bernstein, its executive chairman who had assumed chief executive responsibility when Derek Lewis left the group five months ago, would remain its executive chairman.

Mr Bernstein and Mr Robinson, who leaves Compass

where he was also chief executive, both said that each had their own area of responsibility, and that each looked forward to working together. Mr Robinson, aged 42, assumes his new role at Granada on November 4 and said he retains an equity interest of almost £3 million in Compass.

Mr Bernstein said it had been a "busy" time fulfilling both executive roles since May, but it had been a good time. Last week, Granada retained its television franchise and sold its non-core Canadian television rental businesses.

The group also announced a restructuring of its computer maintenance and services business that involved the loss of 550 jobs.

Mr Bernstein said Granada would now concentrate on its core business, and that there were only a few overseas core interests that might yet be sold.

Compass said Francis MacKay, finance director since 1986, would become chief executive with immediate effect.

Robinson: changing posts

after the DTI report accused the Fayed brothers of lying to gain control of House of Fraser with their takeover bid.

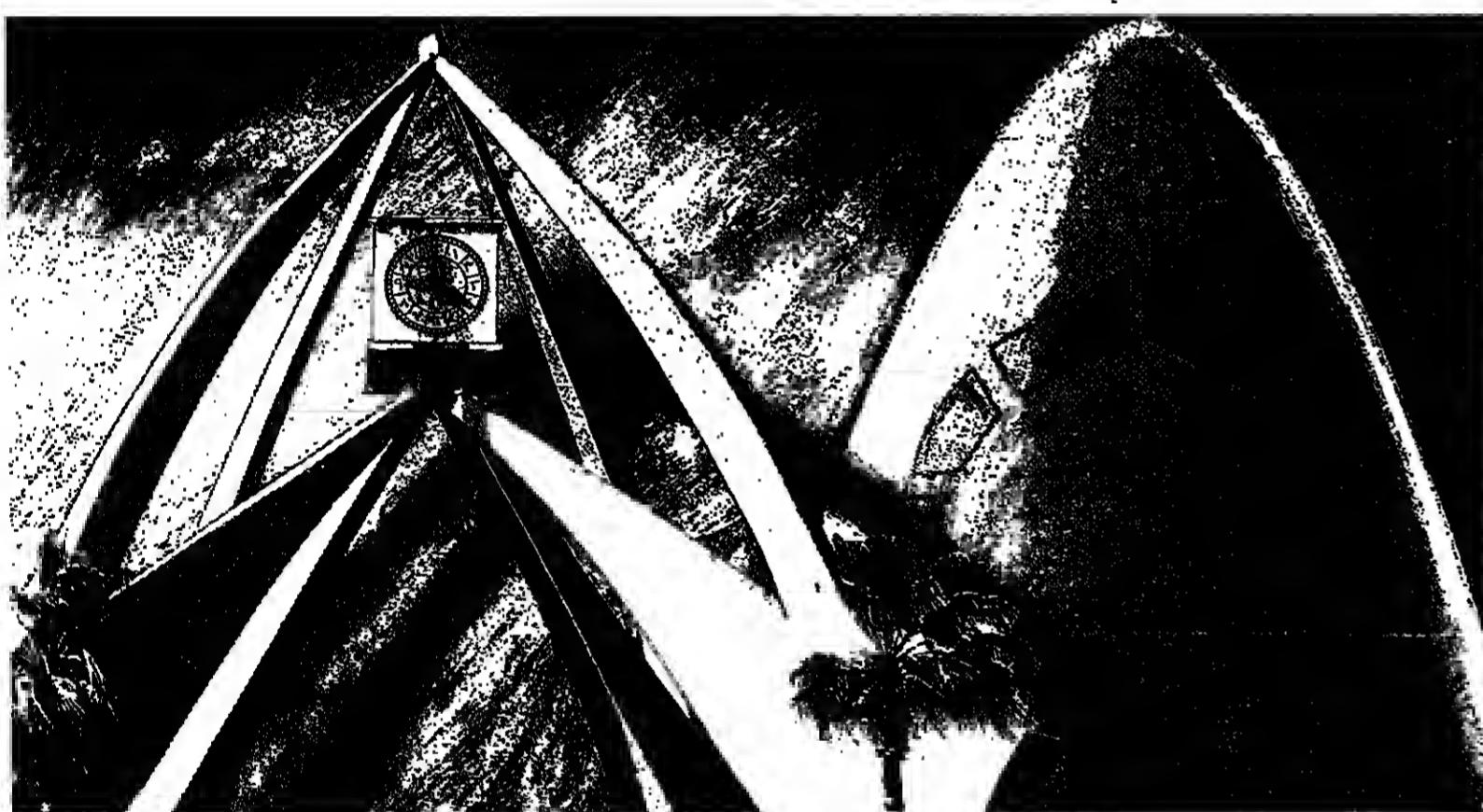
Lord Justice Neill said: "I have found it impossible to say that it was perverse or that the only lawful and proper decision, having regard to matters revealed in the report, was to make an application to the court under the 1986 Company Directors Disqualification Act."

Mr Justice McCullough agreed and the court ordered Lonrho to pay the government's legal costs in defending Mr Ridley's stance. It refused to make a similar order in favour of Mohamed, Ali and Salah Fayed. Paul Spicer, a Lonrho director, said an appeal was being considered.

Counsel for Lonrho argued that the only permissible course open to Mr Ridley following publication of the DTI report was to seek disqualification of the Fayed brothers from remaining as company directors. The report concluded the Fayed brothers dishonestly misrepresented their origins, wealth, business interests and resources to the secretary of state, the Office of Fair Trading, the press, House of Fraser, the company's shareholders and their own advisers.

Dismissing the application, the judges said it was not for them to substitute their own view about the findings of the DTI inspectors, which were "very serious indeed". They were limited in law to ruling whether or not Mr Ridley had arrived at a decision that no reasonable secretary of state could have made on the evidence before him.

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Emirates

Business Roundup

BTR extend Hawker bid

Dock house

Bourne Etchells

To sell Pannier

Canada name
chief executive

That Britain can still be a superb place to make things, as the Confederation of British Industry said yesterday, is clear from the standard set by such inward investors as Nissan and Sony. That the most frequently quoted examples of good manufacturing in Britain are often now Japanese companies could not illustrate more clearly the size of the gap the CBI is setting out to address in its new proposals to improve the performance, standing and image of British manufacturing.

Characteristically, John Banham, the CBI's ebullient director-general, spends much of his time in the CBI's new report, *Competing with the world's best*, stressing what British manufacturing has already achieved in the past decade, and the fact that much of the transformation of British industry has been completed — but better noticed abroad than at home.

To reverse the gloomy perception, if not the performance, of British industry, the CBI is proposing an array of recommendations. Two stand out. The first is for the formation

of a National Manufacturing Council, which would emphasise manufacturing through such means as a hopefully definitive annual state of the nation report on manufacturing, as well as drawing up proposals to improve the international competitiveness of UK industry.

What this masks is the simple fact that British industry has too many voices speaking for it, and suffers as a result. The CBI itself, the British Chambers of Commerce, the Institute of Directors and the Engineering Employers' Federation are only the most notable. Here is a case where market-based competition, in this case to represent British industry, simply sounds like Babble.

Efforts to reform this over-supply have not been spectacularly successful. Recent plans to draw the CBI and EEF together have misfired, largely because they were badly handled. The EEF was being gobbled up by the

CBI, but the CBI should have at least tried to make it look as though that was not so.

The second recommendation is the CBI's proposals for radically refocusing the beleaguered department of trade and industry. The Whitehall rumour machine has had its knives out for some time for Peter Lilley, the industry secretary, though his good performance at the Conservative party conference has brought a temporary end to the whispers.

But the more openly interventionist role the CBI is proposing for the DTI — interventionist, at least, internationally and in Brussels in particular — might be sweet music for Michael Heseltine at a revamped, post-Tory election victory DTI, but does not square much with Mr Lilley's view of the department as

primarily interested in regulation and the promotion of competition.

What is clear is that the best manufacturers in the world, such as Japan and Germany, do see a role for government in industry. That was anathema to Margaret Thatcher's administration, and it is at least arguable that British industry has suffered as a result, if nowhere else than in the new corridors of power in Brussels. Without necessarily embracing the open interventionism promoted by Labour, there is little reason why the successful relationship of government and business in Tokyo and Bonn should not be replicated in London.

The CBI is right to raise the issue. Mr Lilley may not like it, but with the Whitehall wind at the back of his neck, he may not

have much choice. If John Major is minded towards a revitalisation of the DTI as a means of improving the international competitiveness of UK industry, then the CBI proposals are a good starting point.

Party pooper

Ministers who have been beating a drum in anticipation of consumer-led recovery from recession seem so far to have overlooked one important matter — the consumer. To date he has shown a marked reluctance to turn up at the party. September retail sales figures show a small decline year on year. This is hardly an encouragement to accept the rosy view that the worst is over and that the economy has finally turned the corner.

City economists have been expecting even a statistical appearance of buoyancy in retail

activity following the dismal drop in consumer spending recorded during August. Alas, it was not to be.

As the final quarter of the year wears on, the consumer is for all the world giving the appearance of a bad case of shell-shock, more concerned at paying down debts accumulated during the long months when base rates held steady at the punitive 15 per cent level. The truth is that most homeowners are now devoting considerably less of their income in both absolute and proportionate terms to servicing mortgages. But there appears to be little sign of those lower mortgage payments, which may average as much as £150 a month in the London area, driving the economy forward.

The Chancellor may now have to rely on increased output from the North Sea, a fairly safe bet given the depressed figures of last year, to substantiate his claim that the decline in economic activity is being reversed. He must be praying for fine weather between now and New Year's eve. For a storm or two could still blow him off course.

COMMENT

Why British firms are missing out in battle to rebuild Kuwait

Six months after the end of the Gulf war, Britain's ability to win contracts is disappointing

AN AIR of disappointment is set to overshadow the arrival of Tim Sainsbury, the trade minister, in Kuwait next week.

Six months after the end of the Gulf war, early expectations of a \$100 billion reconstruction bonanza for Western firms have been sharply modified.

According to John Wakeham, the energy secretary, restoring Kuwait's infrastructure and the full level of oil production which underpins its prosperity is likely to cost between \$20 billion and \$30 billion.

But the Kuwaitis may also raise their eyebrows at the failure of British bankers to back their country's first attempt to raise a \$5 billion loan that will fund the reconstruction programme until oil output is restored to former levels.

Today, JP Morgan, the loan co-ordinator, will close the list of loan lead managers. The list already includes more than 20 of the world's largest banks, among them Citibank, Deutsche Bank and the Industrial Bank of Japan, each of which has committed up to \$250 million to the loan.

British banks threaten to be out by their absence, although the loan has been organised in London. British bankers insist that their reluctance to participate has been based on sound commercial principals.

"If Kuwait had come to the market with a project finance-related deal it would have interested us more," said one. "Alternatively, they should have offered some asset backing, and the Kuwait Investment Office has plenty of assets to choose from."

Since the Seventies, when banks lent and lost billions of dollars in unstructured loans to Latin America, banks have had a phobia about sovereign lending that is only overcome



Burning bright: the British role in putting out fires has been disappointing by large doses of security. The syndicate is fixed and being spent trying to collect at least one British bank into the lead management group.

Worried officials from the trade department rang round the institutions last week to assess the situation, but ministers have so far refrained from twisting arms, despite fears that the interests of British salesmen in Kuwait may suffer if Britain fails to assist with funding redevelopment.

Such fears may be misplaced, however. Early spending by the Kuwaitis has concentrated on two priorities. First,

the British role in this is another of the disappointments Mr Sainsbury will have to face. The Kuwaiti British

Fire Group (KBFG), made up of Amec, Taylor Woodrow and Wimpey, has been appointed to extinguish 80 fires in the Subiya field, and restore the flow of oil to a central gathering station.

Negotiations over the part of the contract for restoring production took so long that it was only last week that KBFG's contractors put out their first well-head fire. The contractors involved appear deeply unhappy at the unsatisfactory progress of Britain's most prominent contract.

Despite an unprecedented campaign of support visits by British ministers, including John Major, the prime minister, British companies have won few large contracts in Kuwait. By the end of September, they had secured a total of 63 contracts, together valued at £316 million. The average contract value — just £3.8 million — provides clear evidence of the nature of the work. Kuwait is not being rebuilt; it is being refurbished.

Large infrastructure and oil production works will not be commissioned until the latest round of funding is secured. Even when large contracts are placed, British companies are more likely to benefit from the "cascade" effect, as sub-contracts for materials and components are placed, than from primary works.

Michael Brosch, a Middle East trade specialist at the Nottinghamshire Chamber of Commerce and Industry, has been involved with many small and medium-sized firms that have been seeking work in Kuwait. He says that those that have been successful are often companies that have a track record in exporting to the Middle East, and which are dealing with Arab-owned primary contractors.

Second, they had to bring about the speedy extinction of 735 oil well fires started by the Iraqis. Both initial goals are all but achieved. More than 600 wells have now been capped, and the Kuwaitis believe all fires will be out by mid-November, six months ahead of schedule.

The British role in this is another of the disappointments Mr Sainsbury will have to face. The Kuwaiti British

syndicate is fixed and being spent trying to collect at least one British bank into the lead management group.

they had to oversee the restoration of the basic infrastructure of water, power and transport facilities.

Before the war, Britain was Kuwait's fourth biggest trading partner, supplying £229 million of goods, or 6.5 per cent of Kuwait's total overseas purchases, in 1989.

Most British firms that have won business in Kuwait this year have done so because they have offered the best combination of quality and price. Those factors are likely to remain the determinants of success in the future.

ROSS TIEMAN AND NEIL BENNETT

BUSINESS LETTERS

Taxing time for Lloyd's names

From Mr K. C. L. Webb

Sir, Would you kindly allow me, through your columns, to draw attention to the failure of the Inland Revenue to deal promptly with refunds due to members of Lloyd's who have sustained substantial losses on their 1988 underwriting account and indeed earlier years.

This inaction on their part is causing grave hardship to the members concerned. I am at the moment seeking to raise the question of how such losses occurred — when I became an underwriting member I was made fully aware of the risks involved, which I accepted, and am now endeavouring to meet my obligations.

I am informed by my accountant that I will not receive any repayments until June 1992 — three years overdue. One of the reasons given, I understand, is that members of Lloyd's cannot expect to receive preferential treatment vis-à-vis other tax payers. For my part, I am not asking for exceptional treatment but if this is the view of the Revenue take, surely it is up to them to update their administrative procedures by taking on more staff if need be and adopting whatever other steps are necessary to deal with the overall backlog.

I do not need a lecture on the technicalities involved relating to the so-called "open years" — the fact is that many of us have already been called upon to fund losses on the 1989 year of account which, due to the Lloyd's system of accounting, has not yet been finalised. If the will to co-operate was there I am sure the Revenue could overcome any difficulties that might exist. In this respect it may be relevant to point out that the chairman of Lloyd's at the

annual general meeting last June found himself having to state, in response to a question, that he and the Council of Lloyd's had received no help from the Inland Revenue to the immediate past.

Is it a fact, I wonder, as some Lloyd's auditors have concluded, that Lloyd's as a whole is being punished by the Revenue for the sins of the few? If this is true it is most improper and in any event such misdemeanours occurred nearly a decade ago.

I read a headline recently "Is the taxman in debt to you?". He certainly is in our case and yet if we are late in paying our tax bills, even by a few days, a penalty is imposed. So much for the highly vaunted taxpayer's charter.

Yours truly,
K. C. L. WEBB,
Underwriting member for
Lloyd's (1987-1989),
14-18 St Clare Street, EC3.

BUSINESS LETTERS

Touch of glamour

From Ms Elizabeth Golden

Sir, I am a shareholder in Williams Holdings, a nice little company from South Wales but with a most unprepossessing name. What they really need is a new image; a new name; something with a touch of glamour; what about "Racial Welsh"?

Yours etc,
ELIZABETH GOLDEN,
118 Barnfield Avenue,
Kingston upon Thames,
Surrey.

... but how?

From Ms Nicola Beresford

Sir, "Ratners to go down-market" proclaims the front page of the business section (October 10) — how? Yours faithfully,
NICOLA BERESFORD,
43 Woodlands Drive,
Loughborough,
Leicestershire.

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PR route to raising cash

THE turbulent world of City financial public relations is about to be turned on its head yet again if Charles Stewart-Smith has his way. Stewart-Smith, who stepped down as producer of *News at Ten* last week, is teaming up with George Pitcher, industrial editor of *Observer*, to advise City companies on press relations. They are forming a consultancy called Luther Pendragon — soundly remarkably like Uther Pendragon, father of King Arthur — and hope to use it towards achieving a yet grander ambition. "I want to go into independent programme production but need to generate cash flow," says Stewart-Smith. He and Pitcher have written a book, *The Public Face*, and hope to encourage City executives to deal with the press directly, cutting out the middleman.

OUT-OF-FAVOUR executives will note with concern the latest tactics apparently being employed at *Silentnight*, one

THE TIMES CITY DIARY

of the largest bed manufacturers in Britain. "The disposal of the upholstered division along with the chief executive was an interesting move," notes Ruth Keatich, smaller companies analyst at *Granville*, in a circular, "which price executives?

Felling foul
JOHN Aldersley, a Smith New Court analyst whose gains and losses in weight have tracked the stock market remarkably well over the years — he has produced a graph to demonstrate this curious fact — plans a trip to Sri Lanka. One evening last week, he went to his doctor to have the necessary injections. But no sooner was his sleeve rolled up and the needle poised than Aldersley fainted. The irony, his colleagues point out, is that he specialises in the health and



Light side of dark
DARK glasses may be in order when Graham Verby of Chase Manham Bank tackles the New York marathon next month. Verby, who is European research manager at the bank's London office, has

been getting into shape for the race by running to work each morning — almost entirely in the dark. Starting at 4 am, he has been running the ten miles from his home to Barkingside in the City in little more than 1½ hours, leaving time for a quick shower before settling down at his desk at 6 am. "I have covered over 300 miles in the preparation so far," pants Verby, who is running on behalf of Whizz-Kidz, a charity that provides wheelchairs for disabled children.

Help to mature
DETERMINED to hang on to its crown as the City's most "charitable" firm, Nomura, the world's biggest securities house, seems to have found another winner — a wine-tasting session at Sotheby's. The firm hopes to lure 300 people to the Christmas event with the promise of wine and champagne in abundance and

some generous prizes, including two-week holidays in California. Nomura's Max Bascombe, a keen yachtsman and, it appears, budding connoisseur, hopes the occasion will raise at least £25,000 for the Children in Cities appeal. Nomura last year revealed its competitive edge during the summer's Rat Race, in which brokers and dealers dressed as rats had to navigate their way through the Square Mile.

Wundesbank
DOES Helmut Schlesinger and his team know something that we do not? Germany's five leading research institutes expect the Bundesbank to transfer a record DM15 billion (DM8.27 billion) to the federal government next year. Private economists predicting a DM16 billion profit for the Bundesbank, with DM15 billion marks to be transferred to Bonn. Perhaps European bankers pay should be linked to profitability, out the ability to cut inflation — as has been suggested for the Bank of England.

JON ASHWORTH

TEMPOS

Green and Amber plan to avoid red light for profits

LONDON lad leaves school without qualifications, buys into small quoted company, makes audacious but astute acquisitions, watches shares and profits soar and is hailed as the newest and brightest entrepreneur in the retail sector.

It is easy to see Philip Green, chief executive and chairman of Amber Day, as a George Davies or a Ralph Halpern in the making. The story has a smug element of *deja vu*, but Mr Green insists he will not repeat their mistakes despite his "ambitious expansion plans" for What Everyone Wants, his retail chain.

So far so profitable. Pre-tax profits for the year to August 3 were £10.1 million (£3.02 million) and were boosted by the acquisition of What Everyone Wants, which contributed £1.3 million to operating profits of £13.9 million.

Turnover rose from £31.2 million to £103 million and earnings per share from 4.26p to 7.05p. The interest

charge was £3.25 million against £150,000 and the final dividend is 1.8p, making a total of 2.7p, an increase of 35 per cent.

Some store sales fell 1 per cent in the year and are currently running level with last year but costs have been kept low, and the £24.4 million rights issue in June has virtually wiped out debt. Six new WEW stores were opened last year and there are plans for 15 to 20 in the current year.

The question for Amber Day shareholders is whether Mr Green will be as successful with organic growth as he has been with acquisitions. The shares, up 5p at 125p, are trading on 14.8 times earnings, assuming profits of £15.7 million in the year. They have a distinct flavour-of-the-month feel about them and investors may recall that the stock market's shooting stars tend to be the shares that fall to earth most heavily. Clever investors with impeccable timing may enjoy a pleasant ride until then.

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Jessups profits stall

JESSUPS, the Essex vehicle distributor with one Peugeot, two Ford, and three Vauxhall franchises, has issued its second warning within six months about the profit outlook.

The company has cut this year's interim dividend from 2.25p to 1.5p on the back of half-time 1991 losses of £189,000 (£975,000 profits), and a cut in final payment looks likely from last year's 4.75p a share final.

Jessups' latest message is that pre-tax profits for the year that ended on August 31 will be "somewhat lower than expectations", shorthand for "they will be lower than £300,000". The 1990 year's pre-tax profits were £1.38 million.

Ten per cent of the workforce are being made redundant which, together with other measures, should save £1 million, and the overall cost base is being reduced. New board appointments are being made, but they too are on a salary freeze, and Jessups has appointed Close Brothers as financial adviser.

The family holds 30 per cent of the equity and seems willing to ride out the depression. The share price, meanwhile, limps on at 42p, at which a year's total dividend of 5p a share would yield 15.9 per cent. If the November 13 statement contains evidence that Jessups will benefit from an economic upturn, then the shares, backed by a net worth of 110p, could prove an interesting but speculative punt.

Kleinwort Benson cut its forecast for the current year by £15 million to £700 million and that for 1992 by £95 million to £795 million. Rival British Telecom lost 3p to 38p.

Government securities also reflected the view that the next cut in interest rates might be some way off. There were falls of 1/2 at the longer end.

Glaxo lost 18p to £14.23 as the company moved to protect the patent for its anti-ulcer

nomic recovery and hopes of electricity distributors was less severe. Eastern shed 5p to 249p, East Midland 4p to 267p, London 5p to 267p, Midland 4p to 276p, Northern 4p to 270p, Northern 4p to 283p, Seeboard 4p to 275p, Southern 5p to 276p, South Wales 4p to 328p, South West 4p to 265p and Yorkshire 5p to 296p. Of the power generators, National Power and PowerGen shed 1p each to 162p and 173p respectively, while Scottish Hydro fell 2p to

38p. The Canadian company Novopharm is applying to the US Food and Drug Administration to market a new drug that Glaxo claims is a form of Zantac.

Cable and Wireless fell 10p to 563p after stockbrokers

11 1/2p and Scottish Power by the same amount to 1083p.

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No.	Company	Group	Gains or losses
1	WPP	Paper, Print, Adv	
2	HTV Group	Leisure	
3	Kennedy (A)	Industrials E-K	
4	Stobart	Building, Roads	
5	Ranger	Oil, Gas	
6	McKee Socs	Property	
7	Eurochem	Electricals	
8	BSG	Industrials A-D	
9	Sund Charrt	Banks, Discount	
10	Harrowton	Drapery, Stores	
11	Unigroup	Industrials S-Z	
12	First Earth Tiles	Drapery, Stores	
13	Domino	Electricals	
14	Bowater	Industrials A-D	
15	Mowlem (Johns)	Building, Roads	
16	Telfos	Industrials S-Z	
17	First Leisure	Leisure	
18	Campos	Leisure	
19	Auto Soc	Electricals	
20	Kotex	Industrials L-R	
21	Unilever	Industrials S-Z	
22	Foster (Johns)	Textiles	
23	Wimpec	Banks, Discount	
24	Levi	Transport	
25	Sinclair (Wm)	Industrials S-Z	
26	Amber Day	Drapery, Stores	
27	Davies & Newman	Transport	
28	Hightland Distl	Breweries	
29	FR Group	Motors, Aircraft	
30	Usher Walker	Paper, Print, Adv	
31	Nut Foods	Foods	
32	Worcester	Industrials S-Z	
33	Remrose	Paper, Print, Adv	
34	Asp & Lacy	Industrials A-D	
35	Pock	Electricals	
36	Thames TV	Leisure	
37	Petrogas	Oil, Gas	
38	Allied Text	Textiles	
39	Cokes (A)	Industrials A-D	
40	Widling Office	Drapery, Stores	
41	McKeechne	Industrials L-R	
42	American	Chemicals, Plas	
43	Unilever	Foods	
44	Time Products	Drapery, Stores	
	6 Times Newspapers Ltd	Daily Total	

Please take into account any minus signs

Weekly Dividend

Please make a note of your daily totals for the weekly dividend of £4,000 in Saturday's newspaper.

MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	Weekly Total

There were no valid claims for the Portfolio Platinum prize yesterday. The £2,000 will be added to today's competition.

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SHORTS (Under Five Years)

95% 95% Times 97% 1990-91 100 0.02 10.22

95% 95% Times 11% 1991 100 0.02 10.22

95%

Macarthy bid battle hots up with threat to supplier

By MARTIN BARROW

MACARTHY, the drug retailer and manufacturer, has given Medicopharma, its main supplier, 30 days to respond to charges that it is in breach of contract.

John Read, the Macarthy chairman, has asked Medicopharma to spell out why it has failed to post updated prices for the year from October 1, and threatened to take its business, worth £40 million a year, elsewhere unless a satisfactory explanation is forthcoming.

The dispute erupted as Macarthy prepares to publish its final defence against a hostile bid by Grampian Holdings, the Scottish conglomerate, worth £78 million. Ian Parsons, Macarthy chief executive, said the all-shares offer was "wholly unwelcome".

Relations between Macarthy and Medicopharma, of The Netherlands, are believed to have deteriorated after the third and final offer from Grampian last week, when Bill Hughes, Grampian's chairman, outlined details of a probable collaboration agreement between the enlarged group and Medicopharma.

Mr Hughes said Grampian



Outlined details: Bill Hughes, Grampian chairman

would introduce Medicopharma's Mediaphase stock control system and widen the use of own label products supplied by Medicopharma. These pro-

posals stunned Macarthy and its advisers, which gave warning that existing trading links had been jeopardised by Medicopharma's apparent ea-

gence to negotiate with a company that is in open conflict with its largest customer.

The dispute threatens to disrupt an investigation by the monopolies commission into bids for Macarthy by UniChem, the drugs wholesaler, and Lloyds Chemists.

Their bids were referred by the Office of Fair Trading over concern about competition in the wholesaling of prescription drugs. In particular, the OFT sought clarification of the position of Medicopharma, which is perceived as the only substantial barrier to the formation of a duopoly comprising UniChem and AAH Holdings.

Macarthy's preferred partner was Lloyds and Mr Parsons was bitterly disappointed when the £83 million offer of cash and shares was halted by the OFT. The company is deeply concerned by the threat of Grampian gaining control while Lloyds' offer is on ice and plans to publish a hard-hitting defence document tomorrow that will raise questions about Grampian's gearing, off-balance sheet debt and profits from property disposals.

Eastern Germany 'will grow 12%

By COLIN NARBROUGH, ECONOMICS CORRESPONDENT

EASTERN Germany is on course to grow by 12 per cent in 1992, while the western German economy will slow to an annual growth rate of 2 per cent, according to a joint report by Germany's five leading economic institutes.

"The steep decline in the east German economy appears to have stopped," it said, noting that the bottoming-out probably came in July, a year after monetary union. The report voiced concern, however, that too much of the growth was based on government money, rather than self-sustaining activity.

The institutes' generally upbeat view of the eastern economy, which has shrunk by almost a fifth this year, does nothing to allay fears about inflationary pressures arising from unification.

In its latest monthly report,

the Bundesbank gave a fresh

warning that huge public-

sector deficits could threaten

price stability, growth and

jobs.

The report acknowledged

that consumer price inflation

in western Germany slowed in

September to an annual 3.9

per cent from 4.1 per cent in

August but observed that,

when seasonal factors were excluded, the rise was actually sharper.

The institutes' report said that a return to growth in eastern Germany would be insufficient to prevent unemployment rising. Gross national product there is forecast to expand by 12 per cent in 1992 after two years of slump.

Recovery in the east will contribute to pan-German growth of 2.5 per cent in 1992, up from a modest 1.5 per cent this year. Western Germany will slow to 2 per cent from 3.5 per cent this year.

However, an average of 1.5 million people, almost 19 per cent of the workforce, will be unemployed in the east, despite massive government expenditure on job creating and retraining schemes. The average jobless total this year will be 950,000, an unemployment rate of 11.5 per cent.

There is 11.5 per cent

about pay demands. Jürgen Möller, the economics minister, joined the chorus,

saying settlements should not exceed 4 per cent.

Japan's money supply

growth hit a record low in

September, boosting hopes of

a fresh cut in the discount rate.

Britain provides wind beneath the expanding wings of Norway

Soaring business with the Northeast has prompted Braathens to look for growth beyond Norway, writes Peter Davenport

Braathens, the Norwegian airline that opened its first UK route this year with a service to Newcastle, has been forced to draw up plans for extra flights to cope with demand. Initial business projections for the service to and from northeast England have proved to be overly cautious after six months of operations. The company is also looking at other British destinations, including Manchester, Glasgow and Aberdeen.

Erik Braathen, grandson of the founder and now president and chief executive officer, said that while the domestic Norwegian market will continue to provide the company's main business sector, it is anticipating opportunities for growth with the easing of European aviation restrictions. Although not a member of the European Community, Norway has an agreement that gives its airlines the chance to operate in competition with those of member states.

Mr Braathen said: "There is a limit to how many passengers one can get out of a market in Norway of just above 4 million people. With 3.3 million passengers annually we are doing pretty well already, and with new opportunities in Europe, our potential for growth lies in creating new services on niche routes."

The company is spending about £400 million on a fleet replacement programme that will give it 25 new Boeing 737-400s and -500s by 1995. Officials at its headquarters on the outskirts of Oslo say they can sustain such a comparatively large investment on a profits ratio of 15 per cent of their operating revenue of £250 million. It is currently costing about 14.2 per cent. But it is the unexpected success of the Newcastle-Oslo and Newcastle-Stavanger and -Bergen routes that is causing Braathens executives to look again at growth potential.

In the first six months of operation, the airline carried 10,500 passengers between the Northeast and the Norwegian capital, against a projection of 6,600. On the Stavanger-Bergen route, the 21,000 customers represented a 196 per cent increase on estimates. The two routes have recorded a joint operating revenue of

more than £3 million against a projection of about £800,000.

Braathens took over the Newcastle-Norway routes from Dan Air and now operates nine flights a week from the Northeast. That number is being increased to 12 next year.

The company has traded on the strong historical, business and cultural links between the Northeast and Scandinavia, and is capitalising on a relatively high level of disposable income in the region compared with more financially hard-pressed areas of Britain. It is also benefiting from the resurgence in the Norwegian oil industry by providing an efficient freight link with Aberdeen. Christmas shopping flights to the region are also popular with Norwegian tourists.

Mike Rigby, Braathen's regional manager in Newcastle, said only about 15 per cent of passengers on the Oslo route and about 20 per cent on the Stavanger-Bergen run are businessmen. He hopes these percentages will grow significantly.

For almost 40 years, the red and white livery of aircraft in the Braathens fleet has been an increasingly familiar site in the skies over Norway. Since it launched its first internal passenger route in 1952, the family-owned airline has grown to become the largest in the country, carrying more than 3.3 million passengers a year. It serves 15 Norwegian airports, from Kristiansand in the south to Spitsbergen, the most northerly scheduled flight in the world, nearing the permanent ice and snow of the North Pole.

Given the geography and population distribution of the country, air transport is often the only means of inter-regional travel. Braathens claims a 50.7 per cent share of the Norwegian domestic market this year, its main rival being SAS.

Until the creation of SAS in the 1950s, Braathens had operated limited services overseas but there was a political decision to grant the new airline a monopoly on international routes from Scandinavia. It was not until 1988 that Braathens was granted another international route licence - between Oslo and Billund in Denmark.

Venezuela seeks more investment

By COLIN CAMPBELL, MINING CORRESPONDENT

VENEZUELA, rich in several mineral deposits ranging from gold to coal, is anxious to encourage renewed foreign investment. Francisco Gutiérrez, the country's director general for mines and geology, has told London investors.

Dr Gutiérrez, on a private visit to London, said the government was speeding up bureaucratic procedures under which mining licences and permits are granted.

"Previously, it might have taken two and eight years to approve a concession. I see no reason why such procedures should not be finalised within a minimum of 24 days and a maximum of 36 days," Dr Gutiérrez told *The Times*.

The "red tape" associated with mining and exploration plans would also be cut, he said.

Oil and gas had concentrated the minds of international mining companies,

but Venezuela was rich in a host of other deposits in which British and other foreign companies were showing an increasing interest, he added.

Companies that have been active "on the ground" in Venezuela include Monarch Resources, Greenwich, Placer, the north American group, the Royal Dutch Shell group, and Eni, the state-owned Italian group.

Mining accounted for between 8 and 10 per cent of Venezuela's GDF, and the rate of inflation was currently 9 per cent.

The country was rich in coal, manganese, nickel, zinc, copper, phosphates and other deposits, including diamonds, he said.

Significant changes to the country's tax regime had been made this year, including the halving of tax on mining profits from 60 per cent to 30 per cent.

P&P shares tumble after profit warning

By OUR CITY STAFF

SHARES in P&P slumped from 101p to 50p after the computer services company gave warning that it was unlikely to make a profit in the second half, leaving full-year earnings "substantially below market expectations".

David Southworth, managing director, blamed manufacturers' pricing policies and a decline in capital expenditure because of the recession. Cost-cutting measures are being implemented, and the company has already announced

60 redundancies after several years of heavy recruitment.

Before the warning, profit forecasts ranged between £6 million pre-tax and £8 million for the year to end-November, compared with £13.1 million for the previous year.

The company is however, likely to break even at best in the second half. First-half profits were £3.2 million (£6.8 million).

P&P has pledged to maintain the final dividend at 3p a share, making 4.33p for the year, up from 4.25p.

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LAW TIMES

Keeping libel out of court

An arbitration scheme to deal with defamation claims against the media has been recommended by the Neill committee. Alastair Brett reports

Rarely does the legal profession, that most stuffy and conservative of professions, come up with a good idea and point the unruly but creative world of journalism in the right direction. However, as national newspapers face the possibility of a Labour government introducing privacy and right-of-reply legislation, proprietors would be wise to heed the advice of Lord Justice Neill, the respected Court of Appeal judge, and his working group on media law.

Only last year the press was given a final chance to put its house in order in face of government intervention and a statutory Press Complaints Commission armed with sweeping powers to regulate press behaviour.

The warning came from the Committee on Privacy under the chairmanship of David Calcutt, QC, which recommended the abolition of the constructive ideas of Lord Justice Neill: ideas that agreement could not be reached between the parties.

By thus behaving "fairly and reasonably", newspapers would be given an absolute defence to that small minority of plaintiffs who wish to proceed to trial from purely financial motives", and from the "gold-digging" actions, as they are referred to later in the report.

The report also recommends that the "meaning" of the words complained of should be capable of resolution at an early date, that libel actions should be brought within a year of publication, that the defence of qualified privilege should be extended to protect foreign government reports and official statements (subject to a complainant being allowed a right of reply), and, most interestingly, that "encouragement should be given to the establishment of a voluntary arbitration system for defamation complaints".

This last recommendation, modified and extended, might be the key to avoiding repetitive and complex privacy and right-of-reply legislation by a hostile Labour government. The Neill working group rightly says "the most obvious injustice" in this area of law is the absence of legal aid for

After the Calcutt report on privacy, the Neill report on libel and slander is welcome, particularly after "excessive and disproportionate" damages awards by juries in celebrated libel actions. The media have campaigned hard to have this area of law reformed. Now it needs to exert all its influence to ensure that the Neill recommendations are fully implemented and not allowed to gather dust as did the Faulks committee report on defamation after Labour gained power in 1974.

The Neill working group says it rapidly concluded that tinkering at the periphery of this esoteric area of law with procedural points on plead-

ings in libel actions was no good. Any change had to be substantive.

Lord Mackay indicated he would receive any sensible proposals for reform in this area of the law, with two exceptions — trial by jury and the absence of legal aid in libel actions — that he said were not susceptible to change.

The Neill report is a well balanced document, which should commend itself not only to the press but also to the public, in particular those in politics and entertainment, who are the regular butt of intrusion and attack by reporters from the popular press.

The main proposal is that newspapers be given a chance to curtail libel actions by making an "offer of amends".

This would include both a correction and apology and a willingness by the newspaper to pay damages to be assessed by a judge alone if agreement could not be reached between the parties.

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Better news: Ian Hislop, *Private Eye's* editor, after *Sonia Sutcliffe's* record damages were cut on appeal from £600,000 to £60,000. Legal costs were estimated at £100,000

those unjustifiably attacked by the media. With the burden on defendants to prove their innocence in libel actions, many people, including, it appears, Lord Mackay, believe legal aid should not be available for such plaintiffs. If it were, the legal aid authorities could easily find themselves funding highly speculative libel actions by plaintiffs who were being too "economical and with the truth" in an attempt to see whether the newspaper or broadcasting company could prove what it had said about them.

The lack of legal aid does, however, create a problem when, as the report says, there is an "increasing appetite for stories about ordinary and otherwise un-newsworthy people of a 'human interest' nature". That normally means something to do with sex. The group concedes that there has been a dramatic change in press behaviour in recent years, largely due to huge libel awards. Yet there is still a view that "the most significant gap" in the Press Complaints Commission's powers is the inability to award compensation.

This is particularly notice-

able where press intrusion into an individual's private life amounts, in the words of Lord Justice Bingham, to a "monstrous invasion of privacy", as when two *Sunday Sport* journalists invaded the actor Gordon Kaye's hospital room when he had undergone surgery after a serious accident.

The commission's remit is to uphold the "highest professional and ethical standards" in journalism. However, without the ability to compensate victims for breaches of the Press Code of Practice and with only a "watered down" version of the Calcutt Code of Conduct in place, there are those in the Labour party and elsewhere who consider the commission little more than a revamped Press Council or "watchdog with rubber dentures".

In this climate, the Neill working group looked at other ways of resolving media disputes. The group rejected the idea of giving statutory powers to the Press Complaints Commission to award limited amounts of compensation because it thought this would "impose a major obstacle to the speedy and informal resolution of disputes", but it favoured the idea of newspaper editors "subscribing to an arbitration service, funded by proprietors for the resolution of some disputes, whereby, if successful, complainants could recover compensation up to a modest limit".

This voluntary arbitration system, funded by the media, would not deal with cases where there "was a significant factual dispute" but would be well placed to help in those cases where legal aid was not available and where the meaning of words or the Press Code of Practice had been breached and the complainant was entitled to some compensation.

LIBEL ACTIONS THAT WENT TO TRIAL

YEAR	PARTIES	DAMAGES	EST'D COSTS
1985	Dr Sidney Gee v BBC	£75,000	£1m
1987	Bobolas v The Economist	Retrial ordered, then settled	£1m
	Jeffrey Archer v Daily Star	£500,000	£300,000
1988	Koo Stark v Sunday People	£300,000	£100,000
	Sethie v Mail on Sunday	£260,000	£200,000
1989	Maddocks v Anglia's Mail	£150,000	£400,000
	Tobias v Mail on Sunday	£470,000	£500,000
	Aldington v Tolstoy and Watts	£1.5m	£1m
1991	Teresa Gorman v A. Mudd	£150,000	£200,000

Lords lesson

SIR Gordon Slynn, Britain's judge at the European Court of Justice, has some modest ideas on how the House of Lords might improve its procedure when it takes his seat as a law lord in February. He suggested at the Law Society's annual conference last week, among other things, that "proportionality" would creep into British judgments. Proportionality, the idea that administrators should act in proportion, and not to excess, to the mischief they wish to curb, is central to the European Court of Justice's judgments. Anthony Lester, QC, and David Pannick recently argued the doctrine when contesting the government's broadcasting ban on IRA terrorists, saying the total ban was out of proportion to the mischief it sought to curb. If the law lords had accepted the argument, the result might have been a specific ban on inflammatory interview.

Wills worry

WHEN big financial institutions enter the probate market, as intended under the government's law reforms, will the customer be adequately protected? The Law Society says not, and it has protested to the Lord Chancellor's department about draft regulations for probate complaints machinery. The

INNS AND OUTS

Who is competent to judge the judges?

WHILE the United States has been gripped by Judge Clarence Thomas's election process, British judges have been reworking proposals for reforming the way they are selected. First, Mr Justice Hoffman told a conference of the Institute of Public Policy Research that the proposal for a judicial appointments commission would lead to "compromised candidates, not the best but the one to whom there is best objection".

Now Lord Donaldson, the Master of the Rolls, has joined the debate. The present system is not infallible, he told Plymouth Law Society. He did not, however, see that a judicial appointments commission could work. "I do not see that the large lay element which is recommended for its

membership would be an improvement," he said. He also questioned how long the commission's advice would remain either non-political or confidential. He observed: "You do not set up a committee with a large lay element to advise on the appointment of consultant surgeons."

Donaldson: opposing view

there any way a customer can challenge excessive fees for probate work. All these are required of solicitors. The bereaved are vulnerable and their problems "should not be compounded" by divergent levels of protection according to the practitioner.

Jury in camera

ALTHOUGH Lord Mackay of Clashfern, the Lord Chancellor, is thought to favour changes to allow controlled research into juries, no such change has come about and programme makers are finding increasingly ingenious ways to enter the jury room without breaking the law. The latest is by Granada, which is screening a one-hour documentary next month called *Inside the Jury*. Granada has placed a shadow jury in a crown court public gallery to watch a case. The television crew follows them into a jury room and films until they reach a verdict. As the oscar we can get to the real thing, it should be fascinating viewing.

Green brief

WHAT help can the law give in safeguarding the environment? Well argued articles of up to 1,000 words on this topic are invited from students or those training for the law for *The Times Law Awards 1991*, sponsored by Freshfields. Full details were published in *Law Times* on October 8. More than £2,000 worth of prizes and a placement with Freshfields are on offer. The closing date for entries is November 30. Details are available from Georgina Stewart on 071-832 7546.

SCRIVENOR

When your lawyer may tell on you

THE recent acquittal of Alan Keat, a partner in one of the most respected firms of City solicitors, Travers Smith Braithwaite, has once again cast a spotlight on that principle so central to the solicitor's profession — client confidentiality.

When can a solicitor disclose information received in confidence from a client? Many lay people and even some solicitors believe that anything a client tells a lawyer must be kept confidential.

This is not the case. More than a century ago, in the case of *R v Cox & Ralton*, Mr Justice Stephen said communications made by the client for the purpose of being guided or helped in the commission of a crime are not privileged. It was said then, and later, that a communication in furtherance of a criminal purpose is outside the ordinary scope of professional employment. This rarely causes any problems because criminals rarely disclose their criminal intentions to their lawyers. The problem areas of confidentiality are found in frauds involving house mortgages, City frauds and family law. In all these areas, a matter that is routine can suddenly turn into something very nasty, with criminal implications for all concerned.

The police have an ingrained belief that no domestic mortgage fraud can take place without a solicitor's knowing involvement. With the recent rise in mortgage fraud, this has led to several solicitors being charged with fraud when, at worst, they were somewhat naive over what their clients were up to, to the very different Blue Arrow City fraud trial, in which Mr Keat was accused of conspiring to defraud over the Blue Arrow £837 million rights issue. Mr Justice McKinnon ruled there was insufficient evidence.

Family law can create some of the worst situations in relation to confidentiality. Sexual abuse of children will, in all circumstances be a crime. What happens if a client confesses to her solicitor that her boyfriend is abusing her children? This question, and others, have been given careful attention by the two Law Society committees — standards and guidance, and that on family law — and they have come up with some answers. Unfortunately, some questions remain.

The committees' approach is analytical and logical, starting from the premise that a solicitor has to act in the best interests of the client and the duty of confidentiality. If the client is a child and not competent to give instructions, then the solicitor should act in the child's best interests. Given that there are likely to be several possible

courses of action, this imposes a considerable burden on the solicitor, who has to decide what he thinks is best for the child. No guidance is offered on how the solicitor should reach this decision.

The committees go into more detail on confidentiality. They deal briskly with communications for the furtherance of a crime, which are not confidential. The solicitor is then "free to pass them on to a third party". I take this as a euphemism for reporting the matter to the police.

If the information is imparted as a client confidence, then the solicitor still has a duty to the court and in a wardship case can be compelled to disclose information. This is obviously of limited application. Of more general importance is the statement that "... the committees are in favour of the principle of absolute confidentiality being maintained save in truly exceptional circumstances". What is meant by "truly exceptional circumstances"? The committees helpfully provide guidance on this, referring to the case last year of *W v Edell*, where a consultant psychologist felt obliged to reveal his report showing that W, if released from a secure hospital, was likely to commit further murders. This is sufficiently exceptional to create few practical problems.

The guidance does not stop there, however, and goes on to provide working examples. The last of these is the case of a client who has snatched her three-year-old daughter from her husband, who has custody. The mother and child are living rough and this is given as sufficient justification for the solicitor to breach the confidentiality duty and divulge the child's whereabouts.

Not surprisingly, the guidance accepts that this may not be welcomed by the client, who is likely to be furious. There can be no excuse for vagueness about such an important matter. The client should be told immediately when a breach of his or her confidence occurs. Furthermore, when they instruct a solicitor, clients deserve to be told exactly what degree of confidentiality to expect. The public cannot be expected to appreciate the professional niceties when the police are knocking at their doors.

The Law Society needs to prepare proper guidelines for the attention of the public as well as for solicitors. The guidelines should explain the limits of the confidentiality duty clearly and should be given to every client when he instructs a solicitor.

The clients may not like what they get but at least they will then know what to expect — confidentiality that is qualified rather than absolute.

• The author is a practising solicitor

BRIEF

PATRICK STEVENS

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Justice but no winners

Clairence Thomas's narrowly won Senate confirmation by a 52-48 vote as the nation's 106th justice of the Supreme Court is a victory of a kind for President Bush. As an election year approaches, battles for Supreme Court appointments tend to be intensely political affairs. This was so.

However, nobody was prepared for the sordid spectacle of a three-day public hearing, in which Judge Thomas tried to refute allegations that ten years ago he sexually harassed a black female colleague in the department of education who then followed him to the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC).

In the case of Judge Thomas, President Bush had set the Democratically controlled Senate a curve ball pitch on July 1. Judge Thomas is a black conservative, who had seemed prepared to overrule the court's 1973 decision establishing a constitutional right to abortion in *Roe v Wade*.

Republican senators, of course, would support Judge Thomas along party lines and because of his apparently conservative positions. They would be joined by southern Democrats, who are hostile to abortion. It was doubtless part of the administration's strategy that liberals, who led the fight in 1987 to defeat Robert Bork's confirmation, might be reluctant to take on a black nominee.

Judge Thomas, however, faced a backlash from both blacks and whites. The anti-Thomas forces included the National Organisation of Women, organised labour, the Black Congressional Caucus and the National Association for the Advancement of Coloured People. By a divided vote, Judge Thomas was merely rated lukewarm "qualified" by the federal judiciary. Two members of the 15-member committee found Judge Thomas to be "unqualified". Last year, Supreme Court Justice David Souter unanimously received a "well qualified" rating from the same body.

There were also the lawyers, judges and law school deans who do not see the appointment as merely political. They see the Supreme Court as a special post that should go to a lawyer of recognised excellence, intellectual stature and seasoning, learned in the law and the constitution. Many of these decried Judge Thomas as a man of limited experience, of mediocre intellect and of expedient viewpoints.

They pointed out that Judge Thomas had, in anticipation of the confirmation process, distanced himself from earlier positions on constitutional interpretation taken in published articles. They derisively called this a "confirmation conversion". At

The Judge Thomas Senate enquiry took Americans by surprise. James D. Zirin looks at the reasons for the confrontation



The author is a litigator with Bred Abbott and Morgan, a New York law firm



The author is a litigator with Bred Abbott and Morgan, a New York law firm

the hearings, Judge Thomas appeared evasive on *Roe v Wade*.

Judge Thomas's supporters praised him as a decent and caring human being, who performed useful government service as the director of the EEOC under President Reagan. Many admired Judge Thomas's rise from the background of deprivation, poverty and segregation in Pin Point, Georgia, to become a lawyer, government official and judge on the Court of Appeals. President Bush saw him as embodying the "American dream".

On September 20, after nine days of hearings in which Judge Thomas praised the "fairness" of the enquiry by the senate judiciary committee, the matter was poised for a full Senate vote with confirmation expected by a comfortable margin. On October 6, however, two days before the Senate was originally scheduled to vote on the nomination, the bombshell came. Anita Hill, a tenured professor at the Oklahoma University law centre, had submitted sworn allegations of sexual harassment. She had stipulated that her charges be kept confidential.

Then came the unexpected. In an outrageous breach of trust and law, Professor Hill's affidavit, asserting

that for two years from 1981, Judge Thomas frequently asked her out, and when she refused, he spoke to her in graphic detail about pornographic films, was leaked to the press. Faced with a storm of outraged protest by women's groups that they were giving short shrift to serious charges, the Senate postponed its vote so that the allegations could be fully explored.

The ensuing public hearing drew a national audience that sat riveted to the television throughout the weekend. An indignant Judge Thomas, who had previously said he would not make race an issue in his confirmation, heatedly denied the allegations and denounced the process he had called fair as a "high-tech lynching" involving racial stereotypes.

Judge Thomas's supporters stressed that Professor Hill's charges came ten years after the fact; that she may have "fantasised" the entire episode; that she had followed Judge Thomas from the education department to the EEOC after the alleged incidents took place; and that she appeared to have succumbed to ambition in maintaining a cordial, if intermittent, social

relationship with him for some time afterwards.

The enquiry was hardly a conclusive win for either side. Most people believed Judge Thomas, although it was hard to conclude that some difficulty had not occurred between the two. Most senators who favoured Judge Thomas before the enquiry found Professor Hill's allegations incredible or inconclusive and said Judge Thomas should have the benefit of the doubt. Senators who doubted him before the hearings continued their opposition, defended Professor Hill's credibility and said the benefit of the doubt is with the people.

The process had no clear winners. Legal observers found the enquiry sadly unsatisfactory, as senators on both sides repeatedly made partisan speeches rather than asking fair questions designed to elicit the truth. Many believe Judge Thomas emerged diminished and under a cloud. Events will prove whether and how his bitter confirmation experience will affect performances as he takes his place on the Supreme Court.

• The author is a litigator with Bred Abbott and Morgan, a New York law firm

Charter for a disaster?

Why industrial relations requires skill, not interference from the public

Queensberry Rules, OK?



GED

Industrial action in essential services has been a controversial issue in Britain for more than 20 years. Unlike many countries, Britain has no law to restrict all essential service workers, although some groups, such as the police, have been restricted individually.

Traditionally, the law was unimportant; most essential service workers did not take industrial action. If any did, emergency powers, such as the use of troops and the compulsory direction of supplies, were used to reduce the impact of disruption.

In the 1970s, this approach came into question when highly skilled essential service groups, such as health care workers, began to take industrial action and others, such as firemen and electricity power workers, further flexed their industrial muscles.

The 1979 Conservative election manifesto pledged to restrict essential service strikes, and at least twice since, in 1983 and 1989, the government considered doing this. Each time the idea was shelved.

In recent weeks, however, it has re-emerged. The Citizen's Charter and the Green Paper on reforming industrial relations propose that individual citizens should be empowered to bring legal proceedings to restrain unlawful industrial action affecting a service covered by the charter.

This means that anybody affected by unlawful disruption to education, health, local authority and transport services, and gas, water and electricity supplies, for example, could seek a court order to halt the action.

This idea may seem unobjectionable. If an employer fails to act against a union, why should not consumers? However, the proposal is less straightforward than it appears. Recent developments in the law mean that in practice, many, if not most, essential service disputes now risk being branded unlawful.

Applications by consumers, like those of employers, will be heard in interlocutory proceedings, which take place quickly and with truncated legal argument. Interlocutory injunction applicants need show only that there is a "serious issue" to be considered at full trial; where essential services are affected, the court, once this is demonstrated, will almost certainly grant the order.

The complex current law provides many opportunities for a "serious issue" to be raised. Organising lawful industrial action is hazardous for all unions; for essential service workers, the hurdles are even greater.

Many such workers or their employers perform statutory duties, including breach of which is unprotected by the statutory immunities on which the lawfulness of industrial action depends. Claims by public service workers may challenge government policies and be considered predominantly political and therefore unprotected.

The 1991 Code of Practice on industrial action ballots requires unions, before starting industrial action, to give employers time to make

arrangements to ensure that there is no risk to the health and safety of other workers, or the general public, a requirement which some essential service unions will find virtually impossible to satisfy. Although breaching this code is not unlawful, the court may take account of any breach in deciding whether the action should be halted.

Thus, although essential service disputes are not expressly banned, one or more of these provisions may produce the same result in a particular dispute.

The case for treating essential service workers differently from other groups rests on the need to preserve certain basic services. This requires clear principles and the ability on the part of employers and trade unions to plan ahead.

The Citizen's Charter, being founded on the uncertainties of the existing law, runs completely counter to this aim. The joint regulation, or "Queensberry Rules" approach of many past disputes – trade union adherence to a code of conduct to return for a restrained response by management – cannot be expected to survive, particularly as consumers may bring proceedings when a service is merely reduced rather than withdrawn.

Employers at least will have regard to the industrial relations implications before they use the law; consumers cannot be expected to do the same.

This provision of the Citizen's Charter is a recipe for chaos. If essential service disputes are to be restricted, such restrictions should be explicit and accompanied by reciprocal guarantees to ensure that workers are not thereby prejudiced, a point recognised by prominent advocates of restriction, such as the Centre for Policy Studies.

Empowering the individual citizen may sound attractive but in this context the government should think again.

GILLIAN MORRIS

• The author is Reader in Law at Brunel University

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TAX & EMPLOYEE BENEFITS to £80,000 + car + bens

Dynamic City practice seeks experienced tax and employee benefits specialist to spearhead the development of this group within the firm's corporate department. Partnership prospects.

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International City firm seeks Solicitor with up to 4 years experience to handle mix of PSA work (SFA, IMRO rules) together with more general banking and financial transactions.

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CONTACT Michael Silver

Senior Private Practice Consultant

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A Solicitor or Barrister is sought to join the in-house Legal Department of this market leader. Knowledge of the insurance sector as well as good company commercial experience are key requirements.

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A Senior Lawyer is sought to head up the Legal Department of this prestigious bank. The ideal candidate will have a banking background and at least 6 years in-house experience.

FINANCIAL SERVICES £35,000 + bens

Market leader seeks Solicitor with Unit Trusts experience and knowledge of the LIASTRO and IMRO rules. Age 30 plus with c 5 PQE and good general commercial background.

OIL COMPANY to £35,000 + bens

A Lawyer with at least 2-4 years post qualification experience is sought to join well-established legal team for this oil and exploration company based in Central London. Contact Lucy Boyd Senior In-House Consultant

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THE LEGAL RECRUITMENT SPECIALISTS

Law Report October 22 1991

No power to withdraw wage supplement

McCree v Tower Hamlets London Borough Council
Before Mr Justice Wood, Mr L. D. Cowan and Mr J. D. Daly [Judgment October 11]

Tower Hamlets London Borough Council had no power unilaterally to withdraw a wage supplement paid to an employee in respect of the loss of his right to cash pay after the abolition of the Truck Acts by the Wages Act 1986.

The Employment Appeal Tribunal so held when allowing an appeal by the applicant, Mr Clinton McCree, from a decision of a London industrial tribunal in February 1989 that his employer, Tower Hamlets London Borough Council, was out of breach of the provisions of section 1 of the 1986 Act.

Section 4 of the 1986 Act provides: "(1) An employer

shall not make any deduction from any wages of any worker employed by him unless (a) it is required or authorised to be made by virtue of any statutory provision or any relevant provision of the worker's contract; or (b) the worker had previously signified in writing his agreement or consent to the making of it."

Mr Jeremy McMullen for the applicant; Miss Tess Gill for the council.

MR JUSTICE WOOD said that the applicant had been transferred from the Greater London Council to Tower Hamlets on July 1, 1985.

Before the transfer he had been granted a non-cash pay supplement of £6 a week in return for agreeing to be paid by credit transfer through his bank as opposed to his right to cash under the Truck Acts.

The Employment Appeal Tribunal so held when allowing an appeal by the applicant, Mr R. H. Phillips and Mr G. H. Wright [Judgment October 11]

Deductions made by the Home Office from an employee's salary in respect of overpayments made by mistake were an unauthorised deduction under the Wages Act 1986. Section 1(5)(a) of the Act by which deductions in respect of overpaid wages might be excluded from the provisions of the Act did not apply since the employer was not lawfully entitled to the repayment of the wages.

The Employment Appeal Tribunal so held when dismissing an appeal by the Home Office from a decision of an Ashford industrial tribunal in August 1989 awarding the employee, Mr Richard Ayres, £830 compensation for a sum deducted from his wages in respect of an overpayment of salary.

Section 1(5) provides: "Nothing in this section applies (a) to any deduction from a worker's wages made by his employer, or any payment received from a worker by his employer, where the purpose of the deduction or payment is the reimbursement of the employer in respect of (i) any overpayment of wages . . .".

Mr Robert Jay for the Home

continued to be paid a non-cash pay supplement until November 1987. Tower Hamlets decided that it should be absorbed gradually into an overall bonus so that eventually the original employees would be on the same basis of pay as the new transfers.

The terms of the applicant's contract of employment were therefore altered unilaterally and his non-cash pay supplement was being gradually eroded when he made his application to the industrial tribunal in April 1988.

The industrial tribunal considered whether the deduction was authorised under the Greater London Council Housing (Staff Transfer and Protection) Order (SI 1979 No 1737), regulation 7 of which provided that the salary and conditions of employment of a person transferred were not to be less

favourable than before the date of transfer.

It held that since the amount of the remuneration package as a whole was not less than its amount before the transfer there was no breach of the order and no breach of the 1986 Act.

The purpose of the 1979 Regulations was to protect the personal position of transferred employees and to recognise that the new employer would wish to envelope all the transfers within its own work structure particularly so far as the terms of employment were concerned.

For those reasons the regulations gave the new employer a right within six months of transfer to apply new terms provided they were not less favourable than those the employee enjoyed immediately before his transfer.

But since that new statement of terms and conditions had

come into force and had not been the subject of appeal under the regulations, there was a new situation which would continue under the ordinary provisions of the common law of the Employment Protection Act 1978.

There was no power within the regulations which allowed the new employer to continue to make unilateral changes in the contract of employment after that initial power to produce new terms and conditions of employment.

There was no right in the applicant's contract of employment to withdraw the supplement unilaterally. The appeal should be allowed and leave to appeal granted.

Solicitors: Pattiosoo & Brewer, Mr R. J. Abbott, Bethnal Green.

Office: Mr Martin Westgate for Mr Ayres.

MR JUSTICE WOOD said that in October and November 1988 the employee was overpaid £830. The industrial tribunal found that in the absence of pay slips and an explanation for changing rates of pay he had assumed that he was being paid correctly and the tribunal was satisfied that he had spent the money he received quite innocently on normal living expenses.

The employee's case was that the Home Office was not lawfully entitled to the repayment of the £830 and should not have deducted it. The Home Office's case was that on the ordinary meaning of the words in section 1(5)(a) of the 1986 Act the employee could not make any claim under that Act but had to proceed in the county court.

A number of considerations pointed in favour of the employee. The other sub-sections of section 1(5) clearly imposed upon an industrial tribunal the duty to examine the lawfulness of each deduction before that sub-section could properly be given effect.

The employee's case was that

Parliament was less achieved by reading section 1(5)(a) as if the word "lawful" was inserted in

the opening phrase "to any [lawful] deduction" and before the word "reimbursement".

When an employer relied on section 1(5)(a) by way of reference to a claim in the county court (1) the employer would be able to raise a number of defences including that there was no overpayment, that the amount of the deduction was incorrect, that the purpose of the deduction was not to reimburse or a defence under the general law to the claim to deduct. The appeal should be dismissed and leave to appeal granted.

Solicitors: Treasury Solicitor, Mischoo de Reya.

GA Estates Ltd v Cavipen Trustees Ltd
Before Lord Coulisfield [Judgment August 30]

Where a contract for the development of land which had been freely negotiated between commercial parties contained a warranty of the fitness of the land for development, the principle of construction *contra proferentem* did not apply.

The defendants submitted that it was a negotiated contract and there was no reason to regard the clause as conceived in favour of one party rather than the other.

Lord Coulisfield so held, sitting in the Outer House of the Court of Session, allowing a proof before answer in a breach of contract counterclaim by Cavipen Trustees Ltd in an action of payment brought against them by GA Estates Ltd.

Mr Nigel Emstic, QC and Mr James Campbell for the pursuers; Mr Hugh Campbell, QC and the Clerk of the Faculty of Advocates (Mr Raymond Doherty) for the defendants; Mr Neil Brailsford for the third party.

MR COULISFIELD said that the defendants' counterclaim was founded on a warranty in a contract for the development of an area of ground which provided that the pursuers warranted that the land was fit for the purpose of constructing the planned development.

The pursuers submitted that the warranty had been conceived in favour of the defendants and founded upon by them and should therefore be construed, if it was ambiguous, *contra proferentem*, that is, in the manner least favourable to them. *Gloag on Contract* (2nd edition, pp 400-401), *McBryde on Contract*, para 19-2.

The principle of construction

contra proferentem applied not only to standard form contracts but equally to onerous clauses affecting liability even where there was no standard form, including, for example, exemption clauses and indemnities.

An onerous warranty was in a similar position.

The defendants submitted that it was a negotiated contract and there was no reason to regard the clause as conceived in favour of one party rather than the other.

Gloag stated at (p401) that in order to admit of construction *contra proferentem*, there had to be a *proferent* and that, in ordinary contracts where parties were contracting on an equal footing, it might fairly be assumed that the ultimate terms were arrived at by mutual adjustment, and did not represent the language of one party more than the other; *Birrell v Dryer* (1884) 11 R (HL) 41.

On the other hand, *McBryde* stated that the correct rule was that an ambiguous expression would be construed against the party who relied on it, irrespective of which party or parties produced the words.

In *Birrell* both Lord Blackburn and Lord Watson had observed that the content of the clause which had been in issue was as much a matter of concern and benefit to the one party as to the other and that this was not a situation in which the *contra proferentem* rule could be applied.

His Lordship concluded that in the light of those observations *McBryde's* formulation was too wide. The rule might not be confined to standard form contracts and other cases in which the terms were, in effect, dic-

tated by one party.

A similar rule of construction could be applied to clauses which purported to relieve a party of the consequences of his own negligence. In *Canada Steamship Lines Ltd v The King* (1952) AC 192, Lord Morton of Henryton had used the term "the *proferent*" to describe the party in whose favour such a clause was conceived.

The *contra proferentem* rule, however, was a special rule, and given that the fundamental principle of construction was to endeavour to ascertain the true intention of the contracting parties, the normal rule in commercial contracts between equal parties had to be that stated by *Gloag*, and there had to be some special feature to justify the special rule.

The pursuers had suggested that the warranty was such a special feature, because warranties were not normally implied in contracts of sale of land.

His Lordship did not, however, think that the fact that an express warranty in a contract made some provision which was different from what would be implied in the absence of any express term could properly be regarded as comparable with a clause which purported to exempt a party from the consequences of his own fault and as sufficiently special to bring a special rule into play.

In his Lordship's view, the warranty was a clause in a mutual contract negotiated between two bona fide parties for their respective interests and not a special rule of construction was appropriate.

Solicitors: J. & F. Anderson, WS; Bird Semple Fyfe Ireland; Mackay Murray & Spens.

LEGAL APPOINTMENTS

INTERNATIONAL COMMERCIAL LAWYER

A leading British financial institution seeks to recruit an experienced commercial lawyer to join its international legal department in the City.

The role involves legal responsibility for a diverse range of international banking matters, including the structuring and documenting of multi-jurisdictional transactions, and the conduct of complex, high value litigious matters in overseas jurisdictions as well as in the UK. There will be extensive contact with client business units as well as counterparties, and the position will require well developed negotiating skills.

The successful candidate will be in his or her late twenties or early thirties, and will have gained first rate professional experience, preferably with a City practice. Commercial acumen and a practical approach are also important.

A substantial performance orientated remuneration package is offered, augmented by a full range of benefits, which includes a company car and mortgage scheme.

For further information, please write with full curriculum vitae to Box No. 5847, c/o The Times Newspapers, P.O. Box 484, Virginia Street, London E1 9DD.

SOLICITOR

£24,000 - £30,000 ACCORDING TO EXPERIENCE
LONDON

Significant change has taken place at the Legal Aid Board with the aim of improving the quality of service provided. The process of change is on-going and the future promises to be interesting and challenging for everyone involved. We are now looking for a solicitor to join our London office to assist the solicitor section and the legal section in achieving our aims.

You will be a member of our solicitor's team continuously liaising with other sections of the office, making decisions on legal aid applications, attending Area Committees, and training staff on legal topics. The civil litigation workload of the office is extremely varied and will form the largest part of your work.

Two years post admission experience of civil litigation is

desirable, and the ability to handle a large workload is a pre-requisite. Good oral and written communication skills are essential as you will be expected to communicate with organisations and people at all levels. You should have a methodical approach to your work, an ability to pay attention to detail and be able to organise and prioritise your workload.

The London office is situated in Holborn. If you wish to discuss the job further, please telephone Ken Winberg on 071 405 6991.

If you think you have the right qualities and experience, please send a CV to the Personnel and Training Department, Legal Aid, Greencroft House, 12 Roger Street, London WC1N 2JL to be received no later than 6th November 1991.

SOLICITOR AND BOARD

PUBLIC APPOINTMENTS

DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF FINANCE

£25,487 - £28,734

This key post, based in the Finance Department, Stromness, Isle of Lewis, will provide a challenging opportunity for a qualified accountant (preferably CIPFA).

The post will also provide experience of single-tier local government at a level which will involve input in financial management and policy advice at a senior level within the Council. The successful applicant will play a leading role in budget strategy and will have close involvement with senior Members of the Council in financial decision making.

Applicants should have several years post-qualification experience and should have the maturity to contribute positively to the management of the Department.

Enquiries about the post should be made to Tom Carter, Acting Director of Finance, on (0651) 703773 Ext 230.

Conditions include full removal expenses, legal fees and assistance with housing where possible.

Job description and information pack are available from Manpower Services Unit, Council Offices, Sandwick Road, Stromness, Isle of Lewis. Tel (0651) 703773 Ext 226. Applications by CV should include the names/addresses of three referees. It is proposed to schedule interviews for this post during week commencing 11th November 1991.

Closing date Monday

25th October 1991.

PUBLIC APPOINTMENTS

NEW DISABILITY ORGANISATION

Chief Executive

c. £40k

Director of Fundraising

c. £25k (plus incentives)

The Royal Association for Disability & Rehabilitation and the Disabled Living Foundation plan to merge on 1 April 1992 to become the principal charity in the general disability field.

Applications are now invited for these key posts to lead and shape the new body.

The Chief Executive will have a deep knowledge of the disability field, qualities of vision and leadership and a proven record of effective management.

The Fundraising Director will demonstrate a highly professional approach to raising funds for and promoting the new organisation.

For details write in confidence to the Hon. Coordinator, RADAR/DLF Merger, 380-384 Harrow Road, London, W9 2HU.

WELSH COLLEGE OF MUSIC & DRAMA

(Corporate, Financial and Administrative Affairs)

Principal Edmond Fivier MA, FRCM, FRSA

From April 1992 the College will become an independent institution, as a Higher Education Corporation. One result of this change is that the College wish to appoint a Deputy Principal for Corporate, Financial and Administrative Affairs with effect from January 1992.

Salary £31,902 - £34,917

Details of this important and influential post can be obtained from -

Mrs Morag Redman
PA Principal
Welsh College of Music and Drama
Cathays Park, Cardiff
Tcl: Cardiff (0222) 342854

CLOSING DATE FOR APPLICATIONS 15TH NOVEMBER, 1991.

THE ASSOCIATION OF PHOTOGRAPHERS

Non-profit making Professional Association require
Financial/Administration Executive.
Experience in the Arts and/or Fundraising an advantage.
Salary according to age and experience.
Write with CV to Gwen Thomas
9-10 Domingo St, London EC1Y 0TA.

NO AGENCIES

THE STOP SMOKING CLINIC

requires experienced counsellor who will be trained for this exciting new career.
Please telephone

071-584 2418

THE OFFICE OF THE BUILDING SOCIETIES OMBUDSMEN LEGAL OFFICER

We are looking for a young lawyer to join a team of internal legal officers assisting the Ombudsman to investigate and resolve complaints relating to building societies. The successful applicant will be responsible for investigating complaints received and making recommendations, but not for the final decision. Salary will be dependent on qualifications and experience and will be in the region of £23,500. For further details regarding this appointment interested applicants should write, with a copy of their CV, to:

The Register
The Office of The Building Societies Ombudsman
35 - 37 Grosvenor Gardens London SW1 7AW

THE ASSOCIATION OF PHOTOGRAPHERS

Non-profit making Professional Association require
Financial/Administration Executive.
Experience in the Arts and/or Fundraising an advantage.
Salary according to age and experience.
Write with CV

An extra string to the bow

London's Commercial Road, in the heart of the East End and swept by the wind, grime and noise, is not the obvious place to look for a budding Stradivarius, but it is home to the London College of Furniture, one of only a handful of colleges that run musical instrument-making courses.

According to Terry Pamplin, the head of music technology, it is an entirely appropriate location. The East End was the centre of a thriving musical instrument industry in the 17th and 18th centuries.

Whether or not the students, aged between 17 and 70, appreciate the historical symmetry is uncertain. What is certain is their commitment and enthusiasm.

As Stephen Painter, who is learning to make Renaissance instruments, such as lutes, points out: "You have to love it, because you are never going to make a fortune."

Established musical instrument makers see dedication as crucial. Michael Gee, who builds guitars for professional musicians, says: "Working for yourself, as most makers do, is out a job; it is a way of life. You have really got to want it."

Anyone wishing to make musical instruments professionally is advised to take the four-year, full-time Business and Technician Education Council (BTEC) Nat-

In London's East End, Linda Steele finds students carrying on the tradition of making musical instruments. Making the perfect sound, not a fortune, is their aim in life

ional and Higher National Diploma courses consecutively.

Practical skills are the focus of the courses. Students specialise from the beginning, choosing one of six families of instruments: modern fretted (including acoustic guitar and related instruments), violin (including other bowed instruments such as cellos), piano, early keyboard (such as harpsichord), early stringed (including harps or viola), or woodwind (such as bagpipes and recorders).

Electronics for the music industry is offered as a seventh option. For those who want a broader, more academic training, with a career in management in mind, the college offers a BSc in music technology. However, the degree still has a strong practical element and students may concentrate on instrument-making as their project work.

The diploma courses cover manual and computer-aided design, servicing and construction of the chosen instrument, as well as related skills and theory, such as acoustics, technical drawing and

business studies. Students gain experience of making instruments during workshop sessions. Higher National Diploma violin students, for example, are expected to have made the instruments for a stringed quartet by the end of their course.

"We train handmakers of individual instruments for professional players," Mr Pamplin says. Learning to play the instrument is also a part of the curriculum. The aim is for students to develop an all-round understanding of their chosen instrument, which encompasses the creative and the technical and combines the needs of both player and maker.

Builders of early musical instruments, guitars and violins often set up in business as individual builders and repairers, or in workshops with one or two partners.

Eamonn Murray, who makes violins, believes that there is a growing demand for new, individually crafted instruments. However, he acknowledges that build-

ing a reputation and clientele among musicians takes time. "If you are good, you will be able to make a living, but you will have to rough it for the first five or six years," he says.

There are other openings, such as teaching or repairing and restoring instruments for dealers, orchestras and individual owners. Piano-tuners and technicians are in demand. There is very little call, however, for piano designers and makers in Britain, as so few manufacturers are now based in the country.

Perhaps creating the more obscure instruments is best left to those who are happy to be itinerant. Jörg Dahmen hitch-hiked from Berlin to London to make baroque and medieval hurdy-gurdies. "I came here to learn to produce something with my hands which people will enjoy for a couple of hundred years. But I will not end up working here; they are hardly typical instruments in England," he says.

He intends to become either a museum curator in Eastern Europe or an instrument maker in France, where the hurdy-gurdy is still played as a folk instrument.

• Further details: London College of Furniture (071-247 1933). The British Music Education Yearbook, published by Rhinegold, contains brief details of other courses



Tuned in: Bent Villadsen came from Denmark to find the course he wanted in the East End of London

SWITCHING from being an anthropologist to a craftsman seems unusual, even an unlikely, step to take. Bent Villadsen tends to agree. "But so little of what happens in someone's life follows an obvious or logical path," he says.

"It was acknowledged that once a student had learnt the basic skills, he would quite quickly go on to develop his own methods. That is important, because the essence of a hand-made guitar is that it is the product of one individual's skill and knowledge of wood and acoustics."

He decided to produce classical guitars for the professional market. "I didn't want to work for a shop, doing repairs, nor work in one of the great guitar factories abroad," he says. So, after leaving college, he set up a workshop in London. His biggest outlay was on tools - around £2,000, including those purchased whilst training - and wood.

But there can be other hidden social costs for a craftsman. You start by selling relatively cheaply to friends and enthusiastic amateurs, so you work long hours to make a living and don't have much spare time.

The initial hardships have done nothing to undermine the pleasure he gains from his work. "I am doing something that I love. I plan never to retire - I want to be making guitars when I'm 80. And to have so much enjoyment in your work," he points out. "It is a rare thing."

071-481 1066

PUBLIC APPOINTMENTS

FAX 071-782 7826



**NHS IN SCOTLAND
SCOTTISH AMBULANCE
SERVICE**

THREE SENIOR MANAGEMENT OPPORTUNITIES — REGIONAL DIRECTORS

North (Aberdeen) circa £28,000 plus PRP (Ref: PSD8)
West (Glasgow) circa £30,000 plus PRP (Ref: PSD9)
East (Edinburgh) circa £30,000 plus PRP (Ref: PSD10)

THE ORGANISATION

With an annual budget of nearly £50m, 2,300 personnel, over 1,000 vehicles and the only publicly-funded air ambulance helicopter in the UK, the Scottish Ambulance Service is one of the largest public ambulance services in the World. A major overhaul of the Service is in progress involving the recruitment of a significant number of additional staff and the training of a large number of paramedics. These initiatives are principal elements of the "Strategy for the '90s" designed to enhance the quality of pre-hospital patient care.

THE JOBS

These new key positions are integral to the overall Strategy for the Scottish Ambulance Service which is, essentially, about moving the whole Service "up a gear". As a member of the Service's Management Board, your primary task will be to deliver a quality ambulance service to patients in one of three recently created ambulance regions of Scotland. This will require leadership and drive of the highest order together with the ability to motivate and organise a work force of up to 1,000 ambulance and support staff. The initial agenda will include an examination of the effectiveness and deployment of all ambulance service resources in a Region in the light of the revised performance standards.



COMMON SERVICES AGENCY

Working for Health

THE APPLICANTS

Above all, the requirement is for innovators and leaders who are able to distinguish "the wood from the trees". You need not have an ambulance service background, although this would be beneficial. However, you will have demonstrated the knack of being able to analyse complex problems and produce clear cut and effective solutions without ruffling too many feathers. Obviously, wide experience in the management of people and resources is also critical. The posts will appeal to those who enjoy a challenge and are keen to make a personal contribution as part of a close-knit team in the Health Service.

THE OFFER

The appointments are offered on NHS terms and conditions of service with a competitive salary and benefits package which includes performance related pay (PRP), contributory index-linked pension, an attractive car-leasing scheme and, where appropriate, generous relocation expenses.

THE NEXT STEP

An information pack and application form may be obtained from Central Personnel Department, Common Services Agency, Trinity Park House, South Trinity Road, Edinburgh EH5 3SE, tel 031-552 6255 Ext 2725 (answering after 5pm). Please quote appropriate reference number. Subsequent to receiving this pack, anyone wishing further information should write to Andrew Freemantle, National Headquarters, The Scottish Ambulance Service, Tipperton Road, Edinburgh EH10 5UL. The closing date for receipt of applications is Monday 11th November.

A NEW SET OF AIM

We are developing a new set of aims to take Nottingham into the 1990's, based around a culture which emphasises team work, customer service, quality and performance.

ASSISTANT DIRECTOR (Maintenance)

Housing Department £31,353 - £34,488 p.a.

Applications from

Asians, Africans/Egyptians,

Women and disabled people

people would be particularly welcome as they are currently under-represented amongst our employees.

Recruitment packages are available from the Personnel Manager, The Guildhall, Nottingham NG1 4BT. Telephone (0602) 483500 ext. 4624 or (0602) 350700 for an answerphone service available after office hours. Closing date 8th November 1991.



An Equal Opportunity Employer



SQUASH RACKETS ASSOCIATION

CHIEF EXECUTIVE

Applications are invited for the post of Chief Executive of the Squash Rackets Association, the governing body for the sport in England. The successful applicant will be based at the Association's offices in West London and will receive a remuneration package based upon age and experience.

Applications, including a full curriculum vitae together with the names and addresses of 3 persons to whom reference may be made, should be sent to:

Paul G Terton, Chairman
Squash Rackets Association
C/O 15 Croft Road, East Bridgford
Notts NG13 8PS

The closing date for applications is 15 November 1991

**CYNGOR SIR
GWYNEDD
COUNTY COUNCIL**

DIRECTOR OF CULTURE AND LEISURE

Cyflog £37,500 + (£936 x 4) - £41,244

Gwynedd's strength is its culture. Boasting a variety of theatres, musical festivals and galleries; books, community newspapers and elistedfodau; museums, archives and exhibitions, this unique heritage merits preserving and developing.

The County Council has created a new and exciting post of Director of Culture and Leisure in order to co-ordinate the Council's involvement in these fields as well as other increasingly important aspects of leisure. Our new Director will manage a wide variety of activities including the library, archives and museums service, the arts in general as well as country parks. The post is located at the Council's headquarters in Caernarfon.

Candidates must:

- * demonstrate considerable experience in management
- * possess an appropriate professional/academic qualification
- * have experience of local government or the ability to adapt to a local government environment
- * prove commitment and prominence in the fields of culture and leisure
- * be fluent in both Welsh and English

A travelling allowance is payable together with assistance to purchase a car or participation in the car leasing scheme. Financial assistance is available for re-location costs in appropriate cases.

Dyddiad Cau/Closing Date 8 - 11 - 91

Ffurflen cais a marylon pelach am y swydd uchod gan:

Swyddog Personol y Sir, Swyddfa'r Sir, Caernarfon, Gwynedd, LL55 1SH.

Ffôn: Caernarfon (0286) 679078.

Application forms and further particulars for the above post from:

The County Personnel Officer, County Offices, Caernarfon, Gwynedd, LL55 1SH.

Tel: Caernarfon (0286) 679078.

HUMBERSIDE FAMILY HEALTH SERVICES AUTHORITY General Manager

Salary: £37,980 p.a. plus PRP plus Lease Car

An enthusiastic innovative and experienced manager is sought to assume a leading role in the development of primary care services for a population of over 880,000.

The drive towards progressively greater integration of primary and secondary care services means that the management of major change will be the principal challenge of this position. We are looking for someone with the vision to direct that change and the skills to make it happen.

Ideally the successful applicant will be educated to degree level or equivalent, have a proven track record at a senior level, the ability to create, motivate and lead a dynamic team and the personal qualities required to ensure the full commitment and contribution of staff.

In return, we offer a three year rolling contract with a salary of £37,980 p.a. plus benefits which include performance related pay, a lease car scheme and relocation expenses where appropriate.

An application package may be obtained from Mrs. Jill Dobbs, Administration Manager, HFSAS, 32-36 Prospect Street, Hull HU2 6PL. Tel: 0482 25281 Ext 150.

For an informal discussion, Mrs Veronica Pettifer, the HFSAS Chairman would be happy to speak to interested candidates at her private business office (0652 660860).

Closing date: 1st November, 1991.



**NATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR MENTAL HEALTH
NATIONAL DIRECTOR**

MIND needs a new National Director who, as well as being the Chief Executive, will have overall responsibility for the management, development and representation of the Association at all levels and the implementation of policy.

The person appointed will have had extensive experience of management in the public sector, preferably including some time in the voluntary sector. She or he will have an understanding of mental health issues and an appreciation of the needs of people with mental health problems.

She or he will be required to lead a team of staff and thousands of members and volunteers throughout England and Wales. The job demands clear written expression, the ability to think clearly about mental health policy in a rapidly changing environment and to speak in public in a wide variety of circumstances, including through the media.

The National Director will be responsible for the day-to-day running of the Association, including personnel, financial and management issues, and for representing the Association to the media and to government and other bodies.

Interviews will be held on 3rd or 4th December and candidates will be expected to give both oral and written presentations.

Salary within a scale £26,178 to £41,120 + £2,004 L.W.; a car will be provided; pension scheme.

MIND is an Equal Opportunity Employer

Job description and application form from:

Personnel (DS), MIND (NAME), 22 Harley Street, London W1 2ED

Closing date for completed applications: 13.11.91

Please note that CVs will not be accepted in place of application forms

Wentworth public deserves the best

World Match Play needs to overhaul its selection criteria

By MITCHELL PLATTS
GOLF CORRESPONDENT

SEVERIANO Ballesteros beat Fred Couples, Billy Andrade and Nick Price to win the World Match Play Championship. He beat each of them fair and square and thoroughly deserved to equal Gary Player's record of five wins in the championship. But not once did Ballesteros have to meet an opponent with a major championship to his name.

Couples, Andrade and Price are well-respected and talented golfers. The trouble is that the championship would, after 27 years, appear to have lost its claim to be the World Match Play Championship.

This should be of considerable concern to Toyota. The company assumed the role of sponsor and one would have thought that it would have wanted to offer value for money to the public by getting the very best to the event at Wentworth.

The publicity suggested the world's top 12 players were at Wentworth. In truth, only five were ranked in the top 12. And Naomichi (Joe) Ozaki is to be found in 62nd place in the Sony world rankings.

There were two winners of this year's major championships — Ian Woosnam (US Masters) and Ian Baker-Finch (Open) — but two out of four is two too few. Payne Stewart (US Open champion) and John Daly (US PGA champion) turned down invitations; another matter which needs to be addressed.

But José-Maria Olazábal, the Spaniard ranked second in the world, was not given an invitation. It was an inexcusable omission. Olazábal, apparently, was ignored

LEADING SONY WORLD RANKINGS:

1.1 Wozniak (GB) 16,950ds 2.144
Cochlear (Sp) 16,063 3. N Faldo (GB)
15,44 4. S Ballesteros (Sp) 13,462 5. G
Norman (Aus) 12,836 6. P Stewart (US)
11,957 7. J. Ozaki (Jpn) 10,928 8. N
Woosnam (GB) 10,465 9. A. Baker-Finch
(Aus) 9,000 10. N. Faldo (GB) 8,765
11. M. McCoy (Gbr) 8,255 12. H. Irwin (US)
8,005 13. R. Davis (Aus) 7,833 14. M
O'Meara (US) 7,735 15. T. Kite (US) 7,655

because he was not in the best of form when the field was completed. Yesterday, Peter German, the tournament director, admitted the selection procedure needed to be reviewed, with a late wild-card entry held back to overcome such a situation.

Olazábal, although he has still to capture a major championship, won The International on the US Tour, the Epson Grand Prix on the European Tour and played an heroic part in the Ryder Cup.

Moreover, he had won the Dutch Open and the Taiheiyo Masters in Japan in 1989. In 1990, he won the Benson and Hedges International, Carroll's Irish Open and Lancome Trophy on the European Tour; he won the World Series of Golf on the US Tour by 12 strokes, and he won the Taiheiyo Masters again in Japan. And he began this year by winning the Catalan Open and finishing runner-up in the Masters at Augusta.

In that time, Mark Calcavecchia, who was invited, did not win a tournament. How Olazábal could have overlooked and Calcavecchia selected was more than a mystery. It was madness. Toyota would not expect such an elementary error on its car assembly line.

Olazábal has, with others, blamed Mark McCormack,

whose International Management Group (IMG) promotes the championship. He is not in IMG's stable of leading players and has turned down approaches "more times than I have fingers on my hands".

McCormack has been charged with dangling a World Match Play Championship invitation as the proverbial carrot to attract a player into the IMG fold. Why not? It is, after all, his event. He invented it in 1963; he owns it. He is entitled to flex his muscles and give places to players loyal to him if that is what he desires.

But he would not be entitled to do so if a company, on agreeing to sponsor the event, flexed its muscles by agreeing a format for selection rather than there being an international advisory committee which includes, among others, Sean Connery, the actor.

This is where Toyota failed; the company put its name to the championship but forgot to call the tune.

When the World Match Play Championship was born, it established a benchmark by which to judge other events. It was, of course, considerably easier to attract the best players in those days because there were fewer lucrative opportunities.

Piccadilly, the inaugural sponsor, sought only to attract eight players. Toyota would do well to seek a return to that format. Some players refuse to play because they feel there is a disadvantage in not being seeded. It means they must tee-up on the Thursday while four favoured rivals gently practice.

A return to eight players would enhance the claim of Shiochiyo Toyoda, the president of the Toyota Motor Corporation, that "Toyota's goal has always been to provide the highest quality."

The World Match Play Championship does provide the company with the perfect vehicle to promote Toyota, but to make it credible it must put an end to the hickering over the selection procedure.

Toyota's aim should be to invite the winners of the four major championships. The other four should be taken from the Sony world rankings which, coincidentally, are monitored by IMG but which do provide the best barometer of form.

If one player refuses, or earns a place twice over, the procedure must be to go down the rankings. This would mean no spurious invitations. Toyota, and the public, would have a genuine World Match Play Championship.

The rankings, like their Ryder Cup equivalent, are based on earnings, with the leading seven team members qualifying auto-

matically and the remaining three being picked by Mickey Walker, the European team captain.

Like all systems, it has merits and demerits, but too little

account is taken of the Europeans who have also qualified to play on the Ladies' Professional Golf Association (LPGA) Tour in the United States.

Florence Descampe and Helen Alfredson, two of the

most talented and exciting players in Europe, have just earned their cards and will now join Laura Davies, Trish Johnson,

players. Stockton, who will play on the US Senior Tour next year, believes that Hale Irwin, Larry Nelson and Tom Watson are the obvious candidates to be captain when the United States defend the cup at The Belfry in two years' time.

Stockton, making his first

appearance in Britain since the United States won back the Ryder Cup under his leadership, also compared Ballesteros to Palmer.

"If I was in the gallery then I would choose to watch Seve and Arnold all the time because they give value," Stockton said. "Too many guys play golf like it's a nuclear science; not Seve. He hits it, finds it, hits it again and looks like he's having fun."

Jacklin said: "Seve? You run out of superlatives. He's still setting goals for himself, which is terrific, and as long as

he does that he can continue to win at the highest level."

"But there is still an air of vulnerability about him, which is part of the attraction. He can play nine holes like a machine, then fire a shot into the woods. He is one of the best three players of my time, and I'm including Ben Hogan, and the most exciting since Arnold Palmer."

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The match was halved for 15

minutes on the 10th tee

because the Spaniards called in the referee after spotting that Beck and Azinger had broken the "one ball" rule.

Stockton said: "Chip Beck

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By MITCHELL PLATTS
GOLF CORRESPONDENT

TONY Jacklin and Dave Stockton, two former Ryder Cup captains, yesterday agreed that Severiano Ballesteros will continue to dominate, as well as entertain, the golf world. Jacklin and Stockton met over 18 holes at Hanbury Manor, near Ware, to open officially the £25 million development.

They teed off less than 24 hours after Ballesteros, who won four-and-a-half points out of a possible five in last month's Ryder Cup, had gained his fourth win of the year by beating Nick Price in the World Match Play Championship final, at Wentworth.

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Soleil Dancer ready to regain winning thread at Chepstow

SOLEIL Dancer is napped to regain winning ways in an interesting race for the Spinney Stakes at Chepstow this afternoon.

Matt McCormack's colt quickly began to fulfil his juvenile promise in the spring when taking a Kempton graduation race by six lengths and following up in the Thirsk Classic Trial.

The son of Fairy King has been campaigned mainly in pattern races since and was not surprisingly outclassed by Second Set and company in the group one St James's Palace Stakes at Royal Ascot.

Soleil Dancer made no show when returning from a mid-season break in Ascot's Diadem Stakes but fared much better in another group three event, the City of Portsmouth Supreme Stakes, at Goodwood last time.

Although never seen with a winning chance in that competitive 13-ranner race won by Osario, Soleil Dancer was beaten less than four lengths in sixth and the form was franked when runner-up Susurration won a listed race in style at Newmarket last week.

The Glasha, Faaar and Cardinal Point, all from much higher-profile stables, form the nucleus of Soleil Dancer's opposition and should ensure that my nap is sent off at an attractive price.

The unbeaten Cardinal Point, from John Gosden's form yard, is very much an unknown quantity, having won a York maiden in May and a match at Newcastle eight days ago.

McCormack: takes on top yards with Soleil Dancer

last week was only a head, it was a particularly well-judged ride by Simon Whitworth and Ray Bostock's charge seems sure to relish the step up in distance.

Karen Louise would be a most appropriate winter of the Pat Eddery 200-in-A-Season Maiden Fillies' Stakes as the champion jockey partners this promising daughter of Risk Me If Henrietta Knight.

The form of Karen Louise's recent Newmarket second to Modernise has been underlined by the emphatic victory of the third horse in that race, Bold Pursuit, at Headquarters last week.

At Chester, Clive Britain looks the trainer to follow and he can complete a juvenile treble with Al Razmis and Rally in the two divisions of the Saltney Maiden Stakes and Cheshire in the Queensberry Graduation Stakes.

I am particularly keen on the prospects of Al Razmis, who was far from disgraced behind Young Senior and Dr Devon in the Highclere Stakes at Newmarket after finishing a promising second to Shrewd Partner at Kempton.

Strimmer returned from a three-month absence to finish a good second to Lochaong at Redcar last week and Willie Jarvis's Sharp colt can be logically open in his account in the Repton Claiming Stakes at Nottingham.

Blinkered first time

CHEPSTOW: 4.30 PASTURE (Div 2-10: 2m 1f 22yds) (19 runners)

1 122 MANDARIN 20 (D.F.) 5f 11yds 7f 11yds 8f 11yds 9f 11yds 10f 11yds 12f 13yds 14f 15yds 16f 17yds 18f 19yds 20f 21yds 22f 23yds 24f 25yds 26f 27yds 28f 29yds 30f 31yds 32f 33yds 34f 35yds 36f 37yds 38f 39yds 40f 41yds 42f 43yds 44f 45yds 46f 47yds 48f 49yds 50f 51yds 52f 53yds 54f 55yds 56f 57yds 58f 59yds 60f 61yds 62f 63yds 64f 65yds 66f 67yds 68f 69yds 70f 71yds 72f 73yds 74f 75yds 76f 77yds 78f 79yds 80f 81yds 82f 83yds 84f 85yds 86f 87yds 88f 89yds 90f 91yds 92f 93yds 94f 95yds 96f 97yds 98f 99yds 100f 101yds 102f 103yds 104f 105yds 106f 107yds 108f 109yds 110f 111yds 112f 113yds 114f 115yds 116f 117yds 118f 119yds 120f 121yds 122f 123yds 124f 125yds 126f 127yds 128f 129yds 130f 131yds 132f 133yds 134f 135yds 136f 137yds 138f 139yds 140f 141yds 142f 143yds 144f 145yds 146f 147yds 148f 149yds 150f 151yds 152f 153yds 154f 155yds 156f 157yds 158f 159yds 160f 161yds 162f 163yds 164f 165yds 166f 167yds 168f 169yds 170f 171yds 172f 173yds 174f 175yds 176f 177yds 178f 179yds 180f 181yds 182f 183yds 184f 185yds 186f 187yds 188f 189yds 190f 191yds 192f 193yds 194f 195yds 196f 197yds 198f 199f 199yds 200f 201yds 202f 203yds 204f 205yds 206f 207yds 208f 209yds 210f 211yds 212f 213yds 214f 215yds 216f 217yds 218f 219yds 220f 221yds 222f 223yds 224f 225yds 226f 227yds 228f 229yds 230f 231yds 232f 233yds 234f 235yds 236f 237yds 238f 239f 239yds 240f 241yds 242f 243yds 244f 245yds 246f 247yds 248f 249yds 250f 251yds 252f 253yds 254f 255yds 256f 257yds 258f 259yds 260f 261yds 262f 263yds 264f 265yds 266f 267yds 268f 269yds 270f 271yds 272f 273yds 274f 275yds 276f 277yds 278f 279yds 280f 281yds 282f 283yds 284f 285yds 286f 287yds 288f 289yds 290f 291yds 292f 293yds 294f 295yds 296f 297yds 298f 299f 299yds 300f 301yds 302f 303yds 304f 305yds 306f 307yds 308f 309yds 310f 311yds 312f 313yds 314f 315yds 316f 317yds 318f 319yds 320f 321yds 322f 323yds 324f 325yds 326f 327yds 328f 329yds 330f 331yds 332f 333yds 334f 335yds 336f 337yds 338f 339yds 340f 341yds 342f 343yds 344f 345yds 346f 347yds 348f 349yds 350f 351yds 352f 353yds 354f 355yds 356f 357yds 358f 359yds 360f 361yds 362f 363yds 364f 365yds 366f 367yds 368f 369yds 370f 371yds 372f 373yds 374f 375yds 376f 377yds 378f 379yds 380f 381yds 382f 383yds 384f 385yds 386f 387yds 388f 389yds 390f 391yds 392f 393yds 394f 395yds 396f 397yds 398f 399f 399yds 400f 401yds 402f 403yds 404f 405yds 406f 407yds 408f 409yds 410f 411yds 412f 413yds 414f 415yds 416f 417yds 418f 419yds 420f 421yds 422f 423yds 424f 425yds 426f 427yds 428f 429yds 430f 431yds 432f 433yds 434f 435yds 436f 437yds 438f 439yds 440f 441yds 442f 443yds 444f 445yds 446f 447yds 448f 449yds 450f 451yds 452f 453yds 454f 455yds 456f 457yds 458f 459yds 460f 461yds 462f 463yds 464f 465yds 466f 467yds 468f 469yds 470f 471yds 472f 473yds 474f 475yds 476f 477yds 478f 479yds 480f 481yds 482f 483yds 484f 485yds 486f 487yds 488f 489yds 490f 491yds 492f 493yds 494f 495yds 496f 497yds 498f 499f 499yds 500f 501yds 502f 503yds 504f 505yds 506f 507yds 508f 509yds 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England can no longer rely on forcing errors



Blanco: lacking judgment

And then there were four. They did it in different ways, with different styles and with differing degrees of ease, but for England, Scotland, Australia and New Zealand the long march goes on.

The quarter-final stage of the Rugby World Cup produces an increase in the pressure, for now the fruits of failure are bitter indeed, with no second chances and little respect from others. Beaten quarter-finalists are perhaps the most desolate bunch of this tournament.

The pressure was clearly the greatest in Paris. Both England and France went into the match believing they could win the tournament but knowing that such was the relative parity of the two sides that, if things went only slightly wrong, they would be out.

England's victory was based squarely on a lineout which performed outstandingly in the final quarter of the match and on an organised and disciplined de-



David Kirk, captain of New Zealand's World Cup winning side in 1987, assesses the merits of the semi-finalists in this year's tournament

fence. France in the end were quite simply not up to the pressure and not, frankly, was Serge Blanco up to the captaincy required under such circumstances.

Paradoxically, what France desperately aimed at times was to stop trying so hard. A cool and calm approach in the final 20 minutes would have had them back on attack as they played away from the touchlines using the midfield and loose forwards to run at England.

As it was, they hurried themselves into kicking out of defence and they accumulated small error after small error which allowed England a stranglehold on possession. Poor Blanco. The final act

was a sad one for him. It was particularly his tragedy to be so dominant a player and personality that I am sure no one would feel qualified to give him the advice he desperately needed.

He needed someone to tell him that all he had to do was to play his position with his usual élan. Instead, he tried desperately hard to create something from nothing each time he touched the ball and he failed miserably.

England were good, but are they good enough to win the Webb Ellis Cup? Frustratingly, I still feel unable to be sure. I have believed all along that they will never win without using their backs effectively and the Paris performance has merely reinforced this

belief. There is no way that Scotland, Australia or New Zealand will make as many mistakes or lose as many lineouts as France did at the Parc des Princes on Saturday.

Lacking that dominance up front, England will be forced to use their backs to score points. But can they? All I can say for sure is that the individual skills are there. I will believe the collective ability when (and if) I see it.

Scotland were the most convincing winners of the quarter-finalists. They had obviously thought about their tactics hard and they executed them with admirable purpose. Ask any team that has played against Western Samoa. It is not a particularly palatable job to run at them, for they tend to launch themselves like surface-to-air missiles into their tackles. But Scotland discerned what needed to be done and they rolled up their sleeves and got on with it.

Ireland were quite simply incomparable. There is no other rugby team in the world which has such an ability to play above the sum of its individual skills. Australia at times were the epitome of the modern team, masterful executors of the modern game of running, passing and supporting, but they were very nearly washed away by relentless Irish desire.

Very few of us can have doubted that the All Blacks would beat Canada, but after below-par performances against Italy and the United States, the quality of their performance was seen as crucial to their chances against Australia. I was encouraged mightily. I have been forced to change my basic paradigm of how the All Blacks now think about the game.

I had believed, based on my experience, that the final satisfaction, indeed the greatest satisfaction that the All Blacks get from playing, was not merely from winning but from winning by

miles. The analogy is vicious but apt — do not be content with merely knocking down your man; pick him up, hook his arms over the ropes to keep him up and keep on pummelling him. Opponents are not there to be beaten, they are there to be crushed.

That paradigm rules no longer. This All Black team has been around too long to have that hunger. They are collectively a little stale, a little bored with the game and motivation must come from the outside.

When they were stimulated and driven they played very well against Canada. Precise kicking, passing and option-taking won them the match in the first half.

They convinced themselves they could play well enough to beat anyone and then stopped playing well enough to beat Canada. In the end, this won't matter, for the semi-final and the final will demand all that they are able to give for the whole 80 minutes. And they will give it.

Vintage spirit appears bitter taste of defeat

Irish passion must be rekindled for the season ahead

From BRYAN STILES
IN DUBLIN

THE Irish should bottle the ingredients of that vintage spirit that almost swept them into the semi-finals of the World Cup on Sunday, and uncork it when the five nations' championship comes around.

It is a heady mixture that produces wild passion, daring and total commitment in equal parts, and it clearly frightened the life out of Australia before they sobered everyone by snatching victory 19-18 two minutes from the end with a precision that marks them as some people's cup favourites.

Once again, Ireland are the heartbroken near-men of rugby. They nearly beat Scotland previously, and they nearly beat every home country in last season's championship. What more do they have to do to win? Very little, on the evidence of Sunday's performance. But who would want to share in the luck of the Irish who the fates persistently conjure up such heart-wrenching climaxes to mock their valiant efforts?

Ciaran Fitzgerald, the



coach, is proud of the way his young team has answered the call, and said on Sunday: "There is a clearer view today of what this Irish team is made of. But there must be more to come in the matter of putting points on the board."

Theirs was a tremendous cup campaign, for it had looked as if their bandwagon had run out of control during the build-up. They suffered two defeats at the hands of Namibia, just managed to beat a second division club, Malone, and lost to Gloucester. They looked in disarray.

The coach, though, remained unflappable and faithful to his men and his methods. "Our attitudes have nothing to do with proving anybody wrong," he said.

Des Fitzgerald, the prop, who put in several fine displays, will be 34 in December. He, too, might decide to go.

But it is the left wing position that is bound to cause Ireland their greatest concern. Keith Crossan, who missed Sunday's game because of injury, is also thought to be considering retirement. There is no ready replacement in sight. Jack Clarke was called in to plug the gap against Australia, but he is a centre who does not have the skill or thought processes needed for touchline manouevres.

The Irish will also need to consider how they can achieve more penetration in midfield and how to use their half backs even more effectively. Keyes and Saunders are fine kickers, but another dimension will have to be added to their play.

The advances that were made on Sunday must not be lost. One of the abiding memories of that occasion was the image of all Ireland in mourning as their try-scoring hero, Hamilton, broke down and wept, unable to finish a television interview.

"Our attitude was to set targets and achieve them. We followed that policy and if people have different views, that's OK by us."

Whether the bitter disappointment after such a cruel defeat will cause some of the players to retire before the five nations' championship remains to be seen.

Will Donal Lenihan again find the heart and strength to face the discipline and rigour of the training regime necessary to sustain his international career? After winning 52 caps, will he decide that glorious defeat is the note on which to finish his career?

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Canada reap rewards

CANADA, who have enjoyed such a successful World Cup, have been offered a tour of France in the near future (David Hands writes). They have enjoyed their reception in Pool 4 and the experience of breaking into the stream containing rugby's big fish.

"What the World Cup has done is create a framework for countries like us to fit into," Mike Luke, their manager, said. "It has given us a measure of where we stand and an ideal four-year planning process. If

we are as good at this planning as we believe we are — and the result against New Zealand has shown we are not so bad at it — we will be thinking about 1995 in about a fortnight's time."

"That all 32 games should have been shown live in Canada is remarkable. We have received many messages from people showing that this has given us a forum from which to work."

Glenn Ennis and Norman Hadley, two of the Canadian forwards, have been offered the chance to play in Japan.

Time to bow out? Lenihan, after winning 52 caps, must now be considering his future

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Time to bow out? Lenihan, after winning 52 caps, must now be considering his future

Trillo bemoans direction the game is taking

By DAVID HANDS
RUGBY CORRESPONDENT

"ENTHUSIASM and spontaneity are what make this game so great," Jean Trillo said. Sadly, the former French centre, whose coaching commitments to the French team concluded with Saturday's defeat in the World Cup by England, was not talking about that particular match, but rather of the diminution of those two ingredients, which has

contributed towards his own departure.

Trillo offers a philosophy of the game which is typically Continental and which is, to a degree, contradicted by Australia, whose complex switch moves are the result of considerable time spent in training but which also embrace the ball-handling skills which come so naturally — spontaneously, he might suggest — to them.

"When they played wide, England were well prepared," he said. "We were never able to put our back-line plans into action,

of back-line play is inspiration, and when it is not there, you feel a great vacuum," Trillo went on. At Twickenham in March, France had it; on Saturday, at the Parc des Princes, they did not, hence the frustration Trillo said he felt which was compounded by France trying to play too close to the scrums.

"When they played wide, England were well prepared," he said. "We were never able to put our back-line plans into action,

we could not find a solution to the problems they posed. It was the death of romanticism. The problem is that this enthusiastic and dynamic game has gone out of fashion. It is the very evolution of rugby that has prompted me to give up."

But, sadness still, was the suggestion that France had Trillo's inspiration, which was becoming increasingly evident last season, and chose not to take advantage of it. England, he

concludes, can impose their style on any match in which they dominate the ball as much as they did on Saturday, and must be "serious contenders for the title".

But other teams, he added, "are as capable, and offer speed and movement in their play. New Zealand and Australia are perfectly capable of beating England." The two teams, that is, who offer the variety which England have, so far, eschewed.

A would-be wing suffers an unanswered prayer

By HENRY KELLY

TWICE in my life I have watched the last five minutes of a rugby match on my knees. The first was 35 years ago, when a vindictive Jesuit at Belvedere took me, in a fit of pique for some alleged transgression, from my position of splendid and safe isolation on the left wing and placed me instead in what he called with a grin the "power-house" of the second row. From that position it was possible to see or hear the rest of the game from the kneeing, semi-crouching, flat-on-your-face position. Lovely.

The second experience of watching Without-Mother-Kneeling took place on Sunday afternoon as, with five minutes to go, Ireland looked as if they would beat Australia in the quarter-final of the Rugby World Cup. My prayers were in vain. Like poor old Claudius in *Hamlet*: "The words fly up like lightning, strike, and then fall into the low/Vords without thought, like lightning into me."

The Almighty must have been watching the World Match Play golf from Wentworth on BBC2. On TV, again splendid in its coverage and commentaries. Jack Clarke who minutes earlier had given the pass from which Hamilton had scored, now contrived to miss no one, but two Australian as they made for the line and the winning score. I wept, but I'll remember

SPORT ON TELEVISION

THE WEEK IN REVIEW

ber it as something which, coming so close and staying so far away, taught us all something about rugby football and sport in general.

It was a different level, was England's triumph against the French. Thank goodness, come what may at Murrayfield next Saturday, we'll have a side to cheer for at Twickenham on November 2.

As I say, ITV continues to do the World Cup perfectly. It is dangerous, however, to give a tool to a television executive which he really doesn't need all the time. If he has it, he will use it.

Thus with instant replays not every move in a match is worth seeing from all angles just because you have to have the gear handy to show it. Once or twice in their coverage the editors have shown us an instant replay, only for us to discover that while this was being broadcast the game was continuing and we, the viewers, were missing the live action. Controlled, the technique is brilliant; over-used, it is an irritant.

Now a request: why don't

ITV and the rugby authorities for the whole bag and let the referees' microphones, which at the moment go only to the television commentators' earpieces, come into our television sets?

It was innovative to have the referees' messages passed to the galleries in the first place. What could be so wrong with letting the rest of us in on the action?

The microphones can easily be controlled, so social indiscretions or the threat of a Tony Lewisism would be minimal. And since all through this World Cup it has been a great help to hear the reactions of the rest of the team.

I believe it would be a better idea to implement this small development. It is, after all, only a game.

Whisper it softly, but am I the only one who thinks that snooker on television is losing its appeal? Certainly over the weekend, maybe because the games themselves on the rugby pitches were so exciting and lively, the snooker looked very small and weak indeed.

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BOXING

Cook still in search of reward

By SRIKUMAR SEN

BOXING CORRESPONDENT

BRITAIN'S least known champion, James Cook, defends his European super-middleweight title tonight. Whether he wins or loses, it will make little difference to his status. He will be largely unknown to the British public.

Cook, skilful, brave and dedicated, has been boxing for nine years and has met the best British middleweights. He is one of the few to have beaten Michael Watson. Yet he is no nearer achieving financial security than the day he first started boxing professionally.

Aged 32, his main aim is to challenge for the world title and make enough money to buy his own place in Hackney. At 18, he was a waiter at a pub in Hackney. At 21, he was a waiter at a pub in Hackney. At 22, he was a waiter at a pub in Hackney. At 23, he was a waiter at a pub in Hackney. At 24, he was a waiter at a pub in Hackney. At 25, he was a waiter at a pub in Hackney. At 26, he was a waiter at a pub in Hackney. At 27, he was a waiter at a pub in Hackney. At 28, he was a waiter at a pub in Hackney. At 29, he was a waiter at a pub in Hackney. At 30, he was a waiter at a pub in Hackney. At 31, he was a waiter at a pub in Hackney. At 32, he was a waiter at a pub in Hackney. At 33, he was a waiter at a pub in Hackney. At 34, he was a waiter at a pub in Hackney. At 35, he was a waiter at a pub in Hackney. At 36, he was a waiter at a pub in Hackney. At 37, he was a waiter at a pub in Hackney. At 38, he was a waiter at a pub in Hackney. At 39, he was a waiter at a pub in Hackney. At 40, he was a waiter at a pub in Hackney. At 41, he was a waiter at a pub in Hackney. At 42, he was a waiter at a pub in Hackney. At 43, he was a waiter at a pub in Hackney. At 44, he was a waiter at a pub in Hackney. At 45, he was a waiter at a pub in Hackney. At 46, he was a waiter at a pub in Hackney. At 47, he was a waiter at a pub in Hackney. At 48, he was a waiter at a pub in Hackney. At 49, he was a waiter at a pub in Hackney. At 50, he was a waiter at a pub in Hackney. At 51, he was a waiter at a pub in Hackney. At 52, he was a waiter at a pub in Hackney. At 53, he was a waiter at a pub in Hackney. At 54, he was a waiter at a pub in Hackney. At 55, he was a waiter at a pub in Hackney. At 56, he was a waiter at a pub in Hackney. At 57, he was a waiter at a pub in Hackney. At 58, he was a waiter at a pub in Hackney. At 59, he was a waiter at a pub in Hackney. At 60, he was a waiter at a pub in Hackney. At 61, he was a waiter at a pub in Hackney. At 62, he was a waiter at a pub in Hackney. At 63, he was a waiter at a pub in Hackney. At 64, he was a waiter at a pub in Hackney. At 65, he was a waiter at a pub in Hackney. At 66, he was a waiter at a pub in Hackney. At 67, he was a waiter at a pub in Hackney. At 68, he was a waiter at a pub in Hackney. At 69, he was a waiter at a pub in Hackney. At 70, he was a waiter at a pub in Hackney. At 71, he was a waiter at a pub in Hackney. At 72, he was a waiter at a pub in Hackney. At 73, he was a waiter at a pub in Hackney. At 74, he was a waiter at a pub in Hackney. At 75, he was a waiter at a pub in Hackney. At 76, he was a waiter at a pub in Hackney. At 77, he was a waiter at a pub in Hackney. At 78, he was a

FOOTBALL

Brady hopeful of Celtic's chance in Uefa Cup tie

From RODDY FORSYTH IN NEUCHATEL, SWITZERLAND

AN UNHAPPY club, a manager who is apparently on the brink of being dismissed and a disaffected support is a combination which offers Celtic a fertile opportunity to extend their tenure as Scotland's sole representatives in this season's European club football. Neuchatel Xamax, their opponents in the second round of the Uefa Cup, are in poor shape as they approach tonight's first-leg tie, in which defeat will probably signal the departure of their manager, Ray Hodgson.

Hodgson, formerly manager at Malmö and not to be confused with his compatriot, Bob Huish, who took the Swedish club in the final of the European Cup, does not have to cast about for his troubles. Some idea of the esteem in which he is held by the

Neuchatel board can be gauged from the fact that, at the beginning of the season, they approached the former West German international, Uli Stielike, to ask him to take charge of the team.

Stielike was keen, providing he could continue as manager of Switzerland, but the Swiss football association understandably took the view that their interests were liable to be downgraded in such an arrangement and consequently refused their permission.

Meanwhile, Neuchatel's status as habitual contenders for the Swiss championship has been eroded to the extent that they are struggling to maintain a mid-table position and home gates have declined to around the 4,500 mark.

Celtic have not exactly been

Papin suffers as violence strikes

By PETER ROBINSON

IT WAS a bad weekend for the French. To defeat in the Rugby World Cup was added a football programme overshadowed by serious crowd violence that rendered Jean-Pierre Papin, the pride of Marseilles, unconscious on a pavement outside St Etienne's Geoffroy Guichard stadium.

Stepping out of the Marseilles team coach in St Etienne before the club's league match, Papin was struck in the head by one of a number of beer bottles thrown by a crowd of St Etienne supporters. He was only revived after several minutes of frantic attention from medical staff.

Meanwhile, on the field, Joseph-Antoine Bell, the St Etienne and Cameroon international goalkeeper, was also hit by a thrown bottle. "I shall have

to seriously rethink my future," Bell, disconsolate, said afterwards. Papin, understandably doubtful about tomorrow's European Cup second round tie with Sparta Prague, said of his injury: "It's not too bad, I just need to rest." It was almost incidental that Marseilles lost the game 0-0. There was fighting in the crowd at the fixture involving the Caen and Paris-Saint-Germain.

Englishmen abroad enjoyed mixed fortunes. Bobby Robson could celebrate after PSV Eindhoven strengthened their challenge for the Dutch championship with a crucial 3-2 victory over Ajax; David Platt could only reflect on another defeat for Bari, their fifth in seven matches, 2-0 away to Fiorentina, and a slip in third from bottom in the Italian league.

SNOOKER

Bennett puts Wilkinson to sword

GARY Wilkinson, the faltering world No. 5, continued his dismal start to the season with a 5-3 defeat at the hands of Mark Bennett in the fifth round of the Ruthmans grand prix at Reading yesterday (Philip Yates writes).

Bennett is a fluent potter who has risen to 29th in the world rankings, and losing to someone of his ability is no crime in itself.

In the context of his season,

and because of his abject performance, however, Wilkinson will no doubt be extremely worried about the latest in a long line of disappointments.

Wilkinson, who has collected only five ranking points in the first five events of the season, said: "I'm playing my best snooker ever no the practice table, so it's very frustrating when you go out there and play like an idiot."

RESULT: Fifth round: M Bennett (Wales) 5, G Wilkinson (Eng) 3.

AMERICAN LEAGUE

East division

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